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**ALL THE WAY: BEING  
THE COLLECTED POEMS  
OF AMELIA WOODWARD TRUESDELL**

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**ALL THE WAY: BEING  
THE COLLECTED POEMS  
OF AMELIA WOODWARD TRUESDELL**

**SAN FRANCISCO  
A. M. ROBERTSON  
1913**



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BY BENJAMIN P. KURTZ

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TO THE  
ALPHABET

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## Contents

	Page
In Memoriam . . . . .	vii
THE SOUL'S RUBÁIYÁT—	
The Soul's Rubáiyát, Part I. . . . .	3
The Soul's Rubáiyát, Part II. . . . .	11
SONGS BY THE WAY—	
The Procession of the Dumb . . . . .	21
At Pompeii . . . . .	24
Sonnet . . . . .	25
Palestine . . . . .	26
The Aspen . . . . .	27
God of the Human Heart . . . . .	28
The Bronze Buddha . . . . .	29
The Song of To-day . . . . .	30
A Nubian Lion . . . . .	31
Sonnet . . . . .	33
The Song of a Christian Sojourner in America in the Twentieth Century . . . . .	34
Patmos . . . . .	35
To "H. H." . . . . .	36
On Presentation of a Loving Cup to the Former Regent, Mrs. Ashburner . . . . .	37
In Memoriam . . . . .	38
In Her Studio . . . . .	39
To a Friendly Critic . . . . .	40
Heart of a Rose—Heart of a Man . . . . .	41
Sent With Regrets . . . . .	42
A Choice . . . . .	43
Grievance . . . . .	44
The Soul of a Kiss . . . . .	45
"Men Kiss and Ride Away" . . . . .	46
The Child in the Heart . . . . .	47
"Love May Not Sing Again" . . . . .	48
If Love Were All . . . . .	49
Love Is Dead . . . . .	50

## SONGS BY THE WAY—Continued.

	Page
Dead Love . . . . .	51
Truth . . . . .	52
Truth . . . . .	53
Vita Brevis . . . . .	54
Love's Divination . . . . .	55
De Profundis . . . . .	56
The Gift . . . . .	57
Sleep . . . . .	58
Peace . . . . .	59
The " <i>Reproaches</i> " . . . . .	60
Easter . . . . .	61
The Call . . . . .	62
Transition . . . . .	63
Stabat Mater . . . . .	64
A Good Friday Devotion . . . . .	66
The Mater Pia . . . . .	67
The First Christmas . . . . .	68
Love Is Saved . . . . .	69
Farther Shores . . . . .	70
In Bondage . . . . .	71
The Waiting Note . . . . .	72
A Rustic Bridge . . . . .	73
Vespers . . . . .	74
L'Envoi . . . . .	75

## SONGS OF THE PACIFIC—

California's Hymn . . . . .	79
The California Eschscholtzia . . . . .	80
A Stanford Hymn . . . . .	81
A Consecration for a Non-Sectarian Church . . . . .	82
The Song of the Colorado River . . . . .	83
The Spirit of the Desert . . . . .	84
San Francisco Bay . . . . .	85
La Casa Grande . . . . .	86
The Pacific . . . . .	87

SONGS OF THE PACIFIC—Continued. Page

The Yukon's Song of the Gold . . . . .	88
The Malamute Dog of Alaska . . . . .	90

## ON THE SPANISH MISSIONS IN CALIFORNIA—

Proem . . . . .	93
San Diego . . . . .	94
San Luis Rey de Francia . . . . .	101
Pala . . . . .	106
San Juan Capistrano . . . . .	109
San Gabriél Arcángel . . . . .	111
San Bernardino . . . . .	117
San Fernando Rey de España . . . . .	118
The Christ of San Buena Ventura . . . . .	120
Santa Barbara . . . . .	122
Santa Ynez . . . . .	126
San Luis Obispo de Tolosa . . . . .	131
San Miguél Arcángel . . . . .	134
San Carlos del Carmelo . . . . .	135
Santa Cruz . . . . .	141
The Last Sermon of Fray Junípero Serra . . . . .	143

FRANCISCA REINA, OR SONGS AND BALLADS OF THE  
GREAT FIRE IN SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL, 1906—

Francisca Reina . . . . .	149
Francisca Dolorosa . . . . .	151
Francisca Madre . . . . .	155
Francisca's Thanksgiving . . . . .	157
How We Went Out . . . . .	159
Francisca Diligente . . . . .	166
The Simple Life—on Sidewalks . . . . .	168
The Simple Life—in Tents . . . . .	171
The Simple Life—in Clubs . . . . .	172
The Reason Why . . . . .	175
Francisca Gloriosa . . . . .	177

## TUNES OF WAR—

	Page
The Salute of the "Immortalité" . . . . .	181
Dewey in Waiting . . . . .	184
Decoration Day . . . . .	185
España Dolorosa . . . . .	186
"Remembered" . . . . .	188
Lexington Day, 1905 . . . . .	189
The Glory of "The White Man's Burden" . . . . .	192
Victoria Regina . . . . .	194
Labor, the Prophet . . . . .	195
The Spirit to the Spoilers . . . . .	196

## THE JONGLEUR'S PRANKS—

Yankee Doodle Up to Date . . . . .	199
Unc' Rastus to Marse Dewey . . . . .	203
The Lady Reconciled . . . . .	205
An Old Bachelor . . . . .	206
A Spinster . . . . .	207
My Soul and I . . . . .	208
A Grizzly in the Zoo . . . . .	210
A Bilious Day . . . . .	211
Triolet . . . . .	212
Rondeau . . . . .	213
Why? . . . . .	214
The Discarded Lover . . . . .	215
The Mess of It . . . . .	216
Progressive Love . . . . .	217
The Call of Science . . . . .	218
Psychology Five . . . . .	220
To College Girls . . . . .	221
A Pre-Adamite on Evolution . . . . .	223
Concerning Hoes . . . . .	227

## In Memoriam

Amelia Woodward Truesdell, without being by profession a poet, was yet so stirred by an imaginative sense of the experiences that during a busy life came to her no otherwise than they come to most of us, that she naturally spoke of them in the heightened rhythms that are poetry. She was vitally enough endowed to see the things that happened to her in their general, human significance; an unusually busy and practical concern with material affairs never darkened that vision.

And when in the course of those happenings there came to her such bereavements as come upon countless millions of wives and mothers, this power of seeing the general and the human in her own particular experience was at once a keener pain and a vicarious comfort; for that sight, or insight, became thus a Vision.

Those who have suffered will know the Visions in this book when they come upon them among the poems called *Songs by the Way*.

When, moreover, in the course of her life she also had to make those readjustments between the outworn faiths of one's parents and one's own youth on the one hand, and the new ideas, on the other, of one's maturity, which all thinking people must make in every age, she made them so vitally and conceived them so strongly that in them, too, she saw a general human meaning. Again she was stirred by an imaginative sense of not uncommon problems; and that, too, was poetry,—*Rubáiyát of the Soul*, to use her own words.

Then there were the little pleasures of life, and the romantic places visited, and the friendships made, and the lost causes espoused. These, also, were viewed with that insight that had become habitual. Thus everything, with her, tended to transformation.

The poems called *Francisca Reina* were written not for an anthology, but to comfort and cheer an army of men and women, she one of them, who had been made homeless by the unparalleled disaster that prostrated San Francisco in April of 1906. In a practical, humanitarian way, especially in connection with the Red Cross Society, Mrs. Truesdell was so intimately engaged at that time that she had no leisure to polish verses upon the disaster. That was her way in a great and uncommon calamity. The songs she did sing then, for she could not help singing, came hurried and breathless,—cheering many in the midst of the awful dust and ruins of a great city. The songs were never changed or overmuch corrected. But those who were there will turn here to *Francisca Reina*, and they will remember.

And, last to speak of, but a constant merriment in her life, was the ceaseless chattering of what she called her Imps. And, of course, Imps of Verse they were,—humorous asides, caricatures and topsy-turvies, inconsequential interruptions by the laughable and grotesque in the midst of the serious and even sublime. Many of them, indeed, scribbled themselves in the middle of the Songs and Rubáiyát, with glee, she said, at their power to distort the beautiful and put the sublime to the ridiculous. She called them *Pranks of the Jongleur*; they are at the end of the book.

\* \* \* \* \*

Amelia Woodward Truesdell was born at Lowell, Massachusetts, October 20, 1839. She graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, July 27, 1858. In 1864 she came to San Francisco, and was married to Orran P. Truesdell, of whom she was bereaved in the year 1869. In 1873

she lost her first son. Ten years later she was left alone by the death of her other son.

With unusual courage and initiative she then turned to many things, and by sheer force of will created for herself interests and responsibilities. As a business manager, a member of clubs, an occasional lecturer and writer, she was always at once vital and very kind. Lest the march of knowledge should find her a straggler, she had the ambition and bravery (for such it is) to enroll herself at a somewhat advanced age as a student in a university. She received a degree; but she probably gave more than she received, for the way she bore her years was always an inspiration to younger generations. Young people loved her, and admired her eagerness to learn,—perhaps marvelled at such a great desire.

She died in November, 1912.

\* \* \* \* \*

The present editor and friend was asked by Mrs. Truesdell to place together those of her poems, published and unpublished, that to her had seemed nearest worthy of preservation. And where she herself had not made full selection, he was asked to use his own judgment. This he has done,—how well he cannot say, for the loss of a most dear friend has been in his heart, and when he reads these poems he hears her speaking; he only knows the tones he loved best and thought sweetest.

These, at any rate, are most of the songs she made, from the beginning to the end of her loves and sorrows,—  
“All the Way.”

B. K.





# The Soul's Rubáiyát

[*"The Soul's Rubáiyát":*  
*A. M. Robertson, San Francisco*  
1911]

*O Pars, awake! The humming-bird's a-wing;  
Still thrills the nightingale's sweet welcoming.  
Lo, from the hills — the Spring, her hair snow-splashed!  
Rose gardens burst to wildest blossoming.*

*But night owls hoot around Persepolis;  
Where jeweled feet have trod, the serpents hiss;  
To these dead halls there comes no Springtime bliss:  
My time-old search for truth is but as this.*

*This quest sung he who took the Vine to Spouse;  
Nay Pars, why from thy thousand dreams arouse?  
If dark thine ancient doors, where dwells the light?  
In Omar's harp, why wake despair's carouse?*

## The Soul's Rubáiyát

## PART I

## I

Of him who walked a thousand years ago  
In Persian vales, and studied human woe  
And the great Ruler's scheme to man, I read  
And wondered if aught more to-day we know;

Aught more, life's puzzle-riddle solve than he;  
The Whence, the Why, the Whither, and To-Be.  
We still are groping for the Great Reply;  
Through veils and forms, O God, we search for Thee.

## II

He taught beneath the rose-trees of Irán,  
This poet, seer, philosopher; this man  
Who spared not all his learning's treasure trove.  
But vain his wisdom of the star-writ plan!

Still would the multitude, like driven swine,  
On superstition feed, and call it wine  
Of life, though bitter with the creeds of men;  
For sleek Tradition cried, "A draught divine!"

## III

Tradition! Serpent-born at Eden's gate,  
Still deifying fetish, faith, and fate;  
On altars strange, his false lights burning yet,  
Still blind men's eyes unto their high estate.

Tradition! Keeper of the deadly keys  
Where souls are locked in darkness, fed on lees  
Of legends steeped in dreams, dank cloister weeds:  
O God, how could'st Thou look and suffer these!

IV

From wading in the muck of daily care,  
From 'midst the ashes of dead hopes' despair,  
Our souls still wait, with long endurance dull,  
And lifting helpless hands cry, "Master, where?"

"A score of centuries since Jesus died,  
And Sin our daily comrade still?" we cried.  
His life! And could it be in vain? Then weep,  
Weep on, thou mother of the Crucified!

V

I loved the high Ideal I called the Lord;  
I worshiped at that shrine with heart's accord.  
Athwart the altar trailed a serpent Doubt,  
And left envenomed there the name of God.

With the Almighty would you make a trade,  
As with a huckster by the road-side paid?  
So much salvation for so much shed blood,  
And thus your own just penalty evade?

The soul revolts at such a sacrifice,  
Such banal temporizing with a vice;  
The sweetest life the world has ever known  
Is lost to earth for me—unworth the price!

Who then shall weigh the thing we call a sin?  
For ages God mayhap to man has been  
More lenient than His sons. He knows so well  
How weak He made him from without,—within.

## VI

All consecration knows the scourge: the scorn  
 Of words which cuts the heart as did the thorn  
 The Master's brow; and through a dolorous way  
 It mounts its calvary of crosses borne.

Vicarious ever is earth's pain; that pain,  
 The life-sweat of one body's loss or gain.  
 None stands alone. Each hapless child of sin  
 Is linked to me. See that 'tis not in vain.

## VII

From Ark of the old faith my soul went out.  
 Philosophy she skimmed, that sea of doubt,—  
 But eddying circles in a darkening whirl,  
 Maelstrom of words! It was a sorry bout.

Where ancient Nilus and the Indus taught;  
 Confucius with his measured wisdom wrought,—  
 No foot-stay there, no olive-branch I found;  
 But wreckage of a flood of surging thought.

Through mosque and Buddhist temple, silence-shod,  
 To fires of old Irán and budding rod  
 Of Aaron, back the devious way I trod;  
 And lo! I found me many a Sphinx-like god.

But all their lips in silence were and scorn,  
 At my poor search through shrines where ages gone  
 Had left their manual of a bootless quest:  
 For them, no star of some new faith unborn!

Altars and tombs showed man in tragic fray  
 Of creeds, but still the slave of yesterday;  
 His dread of change, slow death unto the faiths.  
 Better a red-robed charlatan at play!

## VIII

And still the Potter's wheel is turned by Fate:  
 He tosses out our shards of love and hate  
 As whirls the clay about. We wonder why  
 We hold such scraps and shreds for our estate.

Sharp-edgéd tools within an infant's hand!  
 These passions which we did not understand  
 Surprised us by their mastery. Then who  
 Had right for us, such dangers to command?

Did Cain, that life was sacred comprehend?  
 Then why distraught when he, without a friend,  
 Went forth? Did Judas know his kiss of death  
 Would mark *for him*, of heaven and earth the end?

## IX

For Truth I searched a hundred seas and lands;  
 I heard his call and ran with outstretched hands;  
 But when I thought I had his footsteps traced,  
 He just had gone to walk on other strands.

All up and down the streets and country roads,  
 I asked for him. Men pointed to the loads  
 Upon their backs and dumbly plodded on.  
 These body needs—accurséd Eden goads!

## X

Within the dark I heard a voice one night,  
 And all the air was vibrant with the light,—  
 Some thought that crashed its zigzag way; and then  
 An Error's mocking laugh. The ribald wight!

I thought one day I'd caught his beckoning glance;  
 Covered with light—Transfiguration's trance—  
 I stood with souls in white. I raised my eyes,  
 Then hope was naught but memory of a chance.

## XI

We read that Truth from one eternal place  
 To us shall ever turn a changeless face,  
 A phantom mirror in his hand, forsooth;  
 Of yesterday, to-day reflects no trace.

For Science changes every hour her schemes;  
 Empiric! What to-day as fact she deems,  
 Next year is refuse by the wayside flung;  
 For souls in mortal need, what good are dreams?

## XII

I questioned Nature for some comfort-screed;  
 For high analogies; God's word and deed  
 Must blend in one great scheme of law. Quoth she,  
 "The individual is a worthless weed."

The specie life with its unbroken train  
 Is Nature's god; and this for souls in pain?  
 As cold as death she reads her cruel creed:  
 "You're weak! Then pass; the strongest must remain."



## XIII

It is the old estate of me and thee;  
 Dividual life lost in captivity  
 Unto the whole. "What means the world to me?"  
 Thus Omar cried. The end? Earth waits to see.

Since his red wine a thousand years of work;  
 Its bold results our logic may not shirk.  
 But of God's mind to man,—the Unit-Soul?  
 Says Nature's law, "Away with shrine and kirk."

## XIV

O Truth! Bemasked with smirk of every race  
 Thy brow! How shall we know thine alien face  
 By strange device of old and new disguised?  
 Yet souls distraught still seek thy dwelling-place.

We would believe thy hidden brow is bright,  
 Immortal reflex of the Essence, Light.  
 Why change thy raiment with the beggar Doubt,  
 With all her shams and trumpery bedight?

Too faint thy image is in science' well,  
 Thy mark uncertain as the sagas tell.  
 O Truth, tear off thy masks, and pray make haste,  
 Or Doubt shall cast us into deepest hell.

## XV

O for Ithuriel's heaven-tempered spear!  
 Some spirit talisman that's crystal-clear!  
 Encased within this casket of dull clay,  
 What chance has man the truth to know or hear?

Silent, Thou God, as Thy unanswering sky,  
Perhaps sometime, Thou'lt tell Thy creatures why  
The true and false are dual-unity.  
And now, have mercy if in sin we die.

XVI

Since Death turned down the Persian's empty glass,  
The sun has seen the train of centuries pass;  
Uncertain-lipped, we question still the law,  
And still to us the heavens are as brass.

And when the past has swallowed up to-day,  
The future from us stolen nigh away,  
We feel the shiver of the river-brink,  
Ah, then forsooth we'll grovel, whining, pray!

Aye, pray to one we never have addressed;  
Reach for the cup our lips have passed unpressed;  
See heaven shrivel and shrink above our heads;  
Ye Moths!—my kin! Where shall we then, unblest?

XVII

My soul go hence! This strife is idle hum;  
This life the beating of an empty drum;  
A Holy Grail vanished is this Truth.  
Back to thy nothingness! Thou slave, be dumb.

And when again th' Eternal Sáki use  
This earthen bowl I found, but did not choose,  
Still other bubbles in to pour, its clay  
The flavor of mortality may lose.

### XVIII

Will its new lips be only formed to sigh?  
 Our questions, will it face with dreary eye?  
 Nay, nay, I've wept its tears, this beaten clay;  
 For man will then have come the Great Reply!

Beneath this star-splashed, zodiac-painted bowl  
 Down-pressed, we crawl with smothering of soul;  
 Is it uplifted for the Súfi seer  
 Whose tragic songs to us through centuries roll?

### XIX

Omar! Ah, do you yet the mystery know?  
 Is Death a Fakir with no wonder-show?  
 Or have the Pleiads now no room for souls,  
 The I, the You, diffused in ether-flow?

Through space as winds Death's caravan its train,  
 Have you aught sweeter found than earth-love's pain?  
 Flesh-robe of sorrow must you wear again?  
 Why dream I, mad? All dreams for man are vain.

# The Soul's Rubáiyát

## PART II

### I

The I, the Creature Man, unto my soul:  
 "Would'st look within the Ruler's great Earth-Scroll?  
 The folded centuries up-gather then;  
 By History's torch new-lit, the tale unroll.

" 'Tis travail and the sweat of blood for thee;  
 The fixed stars of belief reel drunkenly;  
*Thy* sun is blotted out; *thy* God eclipsed;  
 Go find us life; this chaos strangles me.

### II

"Rugged the mountains round thy pathway close;  
 From peak to peak, far-glittering with the snows  
 Of Reason's eyrie home. In what deep hell  
 Beside thee Doubt, with torch inverted, goes!

"Through legend-vales thou'lt follow pale Despair;  
 Doubt's poisonous night-shade, but no hope-ray there.  
 When plaints the ringdove for her Yúsuf lost,  
 Thou soul, alone, wilt echo 'Where, O where!'

"But oh! through stress, lose not thy God! No God?  
 Rather I'd be again my native clod;  
 Would set thee free from this earth-hampered flight.  
 Make haste: I see too near the broken sod.

"Press on till bulbuls to the lark repeat  
 Thy prayer, thine incense for the heavenly seat;  
 Till thou with morning's messenger canst sing  
 ' 'Tis there!'—red roses crushing at thy feet.

### III

“Set up thine altar then, emblazoned *Truth*,—  
The *In Hoc Salus* of they faith forsooth;  
And thy libations pour, my heart’s best wine;  
There sacrifice the treasures of my youth.

“Thy *Jesus Hominum Salvator* too,  
This shrine may prove,—those altar-legends true;  
As from the dying seed new breath suspires,  
From faith’s dead husks Christ-life may spring anew.

### IV

“Stand up before thine altar now and swear,  
Thou priestess Soul, that to our God Thou’lt bare  
Thy brow unto whatever name be true;  
Forgotten be the seal it used to wear.

“Thou’lt flinch not when old altars fall to naught.  
Theologies stripped to the quick of thought,  
And faiths, the sinews of thy life, inwrought  
With thy heart-threads, thou’lt give for freedom bought:

“ ’Tis spirit-vision with the single view,  
A talisman to test the false and true.  
No double thought; no judgment in reserve;  
Mammon or God; thou can’st not serve the two.

### V

“That thou wilt do all this for thee and me,  
Swear it, as there is love ’twixt me and thee.”  
And as she passed, my heart wept bitterly:  
Yet ’tis man’s only hope that thought be free.

But oh! the hurt when old beliefs are rent  
 From lives by church-yard door-ways long content:  
 O dogmas sacred as the mother's breast!  
 Make haste with healing lest the years be spent.

\* \* \* \* \*

## VI

She came. Her step scarce moved her vestments' fold.  
 The law was written in her lips' stern mould;  
 I cried aloud, "O my beloved speak."  
 Far off her voice; her eyes were deep and old.

## VII

"Two graven tablets found I by the way:  
 One chiseled by the Past, one by To-day:  
 All faiths must read by these or else we say,  
 'Perhaps the master-gravers were at play.'

"History and science—friendly scribes, if reads  
 The reader well; they mark man's changing meeds.  
 When Knowledge swings the world in line with law,  
 She'll show God's purpose to the human needs.

"For individual lives, encrusted long  
 In chrysalis of creeds, are with a song  
 And spread of wings outbursting to the hope  
 That Fear as fetish is a primal wrong.

## VIII

"These crowds that with a nation's vigor burned,  
 Whose souls for truth of their Creator yearned;  
 They sought a Christ but found Tradition's hell;  
 What wonder if to God-distrust they turned?

"But sons of God, the seal is on them all;  
Not potsherds set in rows against the wall.  
With errors drugged, they stir as men in sleep;  
New life a-thrill, they would shake off the thrall."

IX

"Yea soul, but veinings of a leaflet's plan  
Go read," I cried. "From it the Maker scan.  
The individual, what is *he* to God?  
O tragedy of him, the Unit-Man!"

X

And long I waited while she wandered—where?

\* \* \* \* \*

Far off I saw her, resurrection fair  
Of form; her face a glory from within;  
I knew she had with spirits swept the air.

" 'Tis Love," she cried. "A heart of love the key  
That opens now the one life-truth to thee;  
That God is love to man, and only love,  
To His own children whom He would make free.

"In lights sur'fine—the tints from desert sands—  
Beside me stood a man with piercé hands,  
His brightness shaded by the mantling sun;  
His voice,—no sound so sweet on summer strands.

XI

*“ ‘Man is not left alone upon the sod  
Of earth, his home, though often weary trod;  
God’s amulet of love, within he bears;  
No heart that loves can ever lose its God.*

*“ ‘And when thou bearest to the river-brink  
Thy talisman of love, thou shalt not shrink;  
And there the Angel of eternal life  
Shalt lift her Cup o’er-flowed, and bid thee drink.’*

XII

“And he was gone. The Mother-Earth looked up,  
A twilight on her face; the hasty sup  
Of sweetness, fragrant on the desert air;  
Earth sighed for yet a cup—a brimming Cup.

“A tender mantle of his thought to thee  
Fell on me as he passed. Love gives thee free  
Salvation from the ‘Body of this death,’  
The world-old fetish, dread of God’s decree.

XIII

“Even as on Judea’s mountain-side,  
He spake. And then I knew with vision wide,  
Not lore occult nor dogmas complicate  
Made of the Nazarene, the Crucified.

“But patience meeting wrong with meekness mild;  
Simplicity with wisdom of a child;  
And charity’s clean hand that cast no stone,  
And raised the weeping Mary, undefiled.



“It is the *spirit* of the Master’s thought;  
Not deep developments, by scholars wrought  
Of doctrines that would shrivel on the lips  
Which ‘Peace and good will’ from the manger brought.

“Spirit of love all human and divine;  
One chalice ruby with his heart’s red wine,  
From lip to lip, the Rabbin then shall pass  
In mosque-cathedral-temple, one pure shrine.

#### XIV

“And there shall come a time of Pentecost  
To thee upon thy homeward way, but lost;  
When ‘tongues of fire,’ a spirit flame, the *truth*  
*For thee*, shall heal thy heart, sore question-tossed.

“Then life shall be an Olivet of peace,  
And from its height thy vision shall increase  
To unknown kingdoms of His love and joy,  
Till doubts like waves on a dead sea shall cease.

“Be it Love’s Zion-heights immortalized,  
Be it Gethsemanes pain-solemnized,  
Be it the cross of life-hopes sacrificed,  
Thine eyes shall see the fields emparadised.”

#### XV

She ceased. And from her eyes’ uplifted sight  
A splendor filled the deepness of the night:  
Oh, mantle of the hope that covered me!  
O Truth, the glory of that desert light!

XVI

“Accept defeat as to Creation’s plan,”  
I cried. “There is no other peace for man.  
The *De Profundis* of a life is this,—  
Would god be God if I His will could scan?

“Now in the sun I set the bowl to-day:  
What matter be it brazen bowl or clay?  
It gathered up the light of yesterday;  
To-morrow it shall draw a brighter ray.

XVII

“Once Ramoth scoffed and clashed the heavenly keys;  
One door defied his hand. ‘What then are these?  
Insult from Him?’ he cried. Then Astrofel,  
‘The mystery of His Godhead would’st thou seize?’

“So I, the Self, this terror-stricken lord  
Of earth who is afraid to meet his God,  
Upon th’ Eternal Sword would lay a hand,  
And would compel th’ Almighty’s final Word.

XVIII

“Forever vanished now the great god Fear;  
Released his captives, to the daylight-cheer.  
Gone too, the little gods of fretting creeds;  
But Love remains and God is there—is here.

“I see men perjured, mad with lust of fame;  
I see them reeking with the gutter’s shame.  
Behold! they rise and call upon God’s name;  
For Fear lives not, but Love with eyes of flame.”

**XIX**

O Love, our refuge in earth's wildest storm!  
 O Service, life-breath of a heart that's warm!  
 A dual-unity, of heaven born;  
 For love is service in its highest form.

Flame-tints that shimmer on the desert air!  
 Love-lights that make Life's sands a garden fair,  
 Where joy and pain sing softly to the soul  
 That God in man is Love in human care.

# Songs by the Way

[*From "Francisca Reina and Other Poems":*  
*A. M. Robertson, San Francisco*  
1912]

*Spirit of God that fills eternal space,  
Somewhere within the regions of thy grace  
Must lurk the beauty that I seek.  
Strengthen the vision that is weak;  
Flow through my opened mind and leave its trace:  
Aye, fill me with it in my humble place.*

## The Procession of the Dumb

In deep thought-watches with the Night, a host  
 Passed by; a noiseless host, still souls,  
 Each brow embrand with pain; of thwarted lives  
 A dire processional. "Father of all,  
 These, too, are thine?"

And thus the prophet Night:  
 "Thou watcher by the gates of the unknown,  
 Dumb in the strife for immortality  
 Thy fellows seek a voice for their mute woe."  
 And these passed on and on, the hapless ones  
 Ill-shaped from stress of bodies ill-begot;  
 In thrall of deathless circumstance,—a crowd  
 To whom ideals are but a dream of pain;  
 And with them those, dead-lustred of the eye,  
 O darkest spirits, they who have no dreams.

Came tearless mourners here, their all in one  
 Too dainty bit of clay, or tiny hand  
 Uptossing to their arms; supreme of woe,  
 That their wide eyes are dry. And I for them  
 Must weep the speech of tears? Came lovers cold,  
 Who shivered at love's limitations found.  
 And they, the worshipful, who saw no God  
 Of joy in their unanswering skies.

O train

Most pitiful, the artists of unskill!  
 The colorist to whom in mockery  
 Light's pageantries appear! The sculptor's touch  
 Which gives no marble breath; the artisan  
 Whose fingers find no thought! The voiceless songs!  
 Benumbed of throat and hand, their lyres unstrung,  
 The poet souls that know not words' delight,—

Ah, who shall tell the ecstasy of pain  
That sleeps at last, its songs unsung?

And lo!

A crowd whose likeness men saw not and lived.  
The uncrowned throng of the ambitious, these,  
Who ever for the laurel pluck the bay.  
Who, unanointed with the altar-chrism  
Of genius, yet see visions come and go.  
One bound of foot would walk; one drags a stone;  
Together chained, some rage as galley slaves;  
The palsied limbs would keep apace; the hands  
Close tied would hide a wound; a deathless worm  
One slays in vain. And all make shift to smile.  
O flameless candle and the empty dish!

Thus poverty and tasks unfit and bonds  
Unloved! Fair tastes denied, and all the train  
Of appetites, of passions, and disease,  
Had left on every brow the unhealed brand  
Of shame or multitudinous sin,—dread stamp  
Of disappointed lives.

Again the Night:

“Singer from hill-top shrines, the mountain air  
Of life bear in thy sweeping garments down,  
So breath may be in this dead place. Sing thou  
Of growth for all the stultified,—that he  
Vampire despair, is dead. The souls long blind  
That dwelt in error’s darkened house, look forth  
From opened windows to the light. Behold,  
Twin stars dispel low-scudding clouds! Now shrinks  
Dead fear and shrivels in the dawn. Lo, truth  
And knowledge from their star-dust are as suns!

A final state the universe has not;  
Nor knows all space the wrecking words 'Too late.'

"Aye, shout aloud that these earth-appetites,  
Of body born, are not of soul. Yea, cry  
The clarion call thy spirit hears: 'When these  
Clay lanterns of the flesh shall fall away,  
Shall into pieces fall, the smothered fire  
In purer air shall burst to brighter flame  
And burn anew as lit from God's own light.' "



## At Pompeii

In sunless depths of old Pompeian halls,  
 In pose of life among the pictured walls  
     Were human bodies found, unchanged in mold  
 Since Grace was shocked to stillness, meeting Death.  
 A ray, a motion of the new life's breath,—  
     To dust they fell, a heap of ashes cold.

Within our hearts are secret crypts which hide  
 Grief-forms unchanged through years. They still abide  
     As things of life, these hopes and dreams long dead.  
 If but to-day's sharp lights were bravely thrown  
 Upon those figures time-enshrined and lone,  
     To naught would fall the shapes of sainted dread.

## Sonnet

High in a Roman tower where white doves feed,  
An artist toils alone. The plastic clay  
He molds with living touch from day to day,  
Till love's own dream of love his fond eyes read.—  
In work-shops bare, the artisans with speed  
Of cunning hands their life-trained chisels ply;  
The model fair before the watchful eye  
They reproduce with earnest, patient heed.

The Master's life! Ideal so fair and high  
To grasp, we with the Master's thought must vie.  
The workmen we with rude or skillful hand  
From out the record marble, statues make.  
Alas, if idle blows that beauty break  
Which for eternity and time must stand.

## Palestine

O Land, a-stoop with penitential years,  
 Thou tragedy of treason to thy God,  
 Where Sons of Allah hold with foot unshod  
 The altar-place of Judah's fruitless tears!

Moriah's hill! Blood-sacrifice of old  
 When David slew on Ornan's threshing floor;  
 Where Abram's knife was lifted, long before  
 The mornings flushed thy temple's dome of gold.

Thou Zion walls where Jacob's children pray  
 Above the vaults which hid a nation's shame!  
 O Syrian sun, how canst thou bare thy flame?  
 Weep, Israel, weep! Alas for Calvary's day!

Thou Nazareth, we wonder at thy dower,  
 Thou Olivet and Lebanon afar,  
 Meek Bethlehem that stayed the wandering star,  
 We're dumb before the mystery of thy power.

Gethsemane, with olive twilight dim,  
 We stand where Jesus held the cup of woe;  
 We feel the angel forms still come and go  
 Among the changeless trees that sheltered Him.

Garden which saw love's sacrificial birth,  
 Where olives, bent with thrice a thousand years,  
 Still droop above our sacrament of tears,—  
 O God! to kneel upon the self-same earth!

## The Aspen

### *A Legend of Palestine*

- O Aspen, why shiver thus in affright?  
 Have your leaves from eternal penance no rest?  
 Did you bide so long on some eerie quest  
 That a terrified, uninvited guest  
     On earth you seem?  
     Does memory dream  
 Of the houris whose eyes were jewels of light?  
 Do you tremble in fear or in hidden delight?
- O Aspen, why shiver thus in affright?
- O mortal, speak never lightly of me;  
 I stood on Calvary's hillside when  
*He* was pierced in the side by the Roman men,  
 And the high priests scoffed beneath. Since then  
     That cruel jeer  
     Forever I hear;  
 Forever His crimson blood I see;  
 Forever no peace to my heart can be;
- O brother, speak never lightly of me.

## God of the Human Heart\*

"God of the Open Air!" God of the Human Heart!  
On heights, though Thou art there, of sorrow Thou art  
part.

God of the forest arch! God of the altar-flame!  
Beneath the skies or groined roof, Thou art the same.

Be it cathedral choir or swinging bird  
Thou hearest singing in Thy praise,  
They bring unto Thine ear the same sweet word  
From gargoyled tower or copse of bending sprays.

In busy streets where we are smallest part  
Of currents gushing from the city's heart,  
In dens or gilded crypts of crime, some spark  
Of light I find,—some thought, some hope, some mark  
Of Thee, illuminating with Thy sweet control  
Some secret impulse of a sin-stained soul.

In death throes of the hopes that fall  
When we to earth our dreams of service fling,  
In bitterness of joys that pall,  
In fruitless Autumn from a blossoming Spring,—  
Though we be dumb with failures, Thou art there,  
Bringing life-buoyance of the open air.

In sickness when the pulse is low with midnight chill,  
And death-moths flutter round the candle's flare,  
Thou walkest softly on the night, and lo! the thrill  
Of life is in the light which follows where  
Thy footsteps make our dawn, "God of the Open Air."

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\*With acknowledgments to Mr. Henry Van Dyke's poem,  
"God of the Open Air."

## The Bronze Buddha

On the lotus blossom the Buddha is sitting,  
 With the cobra's hood on his head;  
 The sun and the moon behind him enfigured  
 In a bronze of gold and of red.  
 For the half of a thousand years he had sat there  
 When the Bethlehem hymn was sung;  
 To Nirvana's passionless peace he was passing  
 When the Christ-Child's anthem rung.

On his forehead the spot of the chosen immortal,  
 Revered as the seal divine;  
 Ample-lipped is his mouth, but no human emotion  
 Breaks the fullness of curving line.  
 And narrow his eyes, but life-shot, and gazing  
 With a haunting calm to your own;  
 On his lap the folded fingers are lying,  
 The labors of man to them unknown.

And the nerveless type of a dream he embodies,  
 The inertia of unpulsed soul;  
 But a mystery vast as the years immemorial  
 Which into the silence roll.  
 And illusions as subtle as orient attars  
 Across the lulled senses creep,  
 Till my spirit is weighted with æons and æons  
 Of stillness and dreamless sleep.

## The Song of To-day

The singers sing not the sweet songs to-day,  
 Their eyes are dull and their hearts are old;  
 The butterfly's pastel wing is grey,  
 The altars are dumb and the lyrics are cold.

Then whither away has Poesy fled?  
 She roams not the tinted depths of space,  
 The Pleiad crown she has cast from her head:  
 Where shall we, the desolate, find her place?

Go down to the room of the panting steam;  
 She looks in the face of the fluent steel,  
 And sweeter to her than Sappho's dream  
 Are the purring band and the humming wheel.

'Tis the song of throttles and rivets and bonds,  
 The song of an age of inventive might:  
 The song of the man who sings with his hands  
 The poem God whispered to him in the night.

She has caught the flash from the era's brain,  
 She smiles at the soot on her folded wings;  
 She has struck the key to the world's refrain,  
 "Lo, Matter is crowned and sits with the kings!"

## A Nubian Lion

Monarch dethroned, with eyes where smouldering fires  
Seem ever bursting into memory,  
Whose brows are but captivity's despair,  
What tragedy of other life has left  
Such majesty upon thy wrinkled front?

Why plungest at thy cage? Dost see thy foes,  
Princes who smote thy sires in Babylon  
Or in Persepolis? Thou art avenged;  
Thine ancestors have cast for centuries  
Their moonlight silhouettes upon the floors  
And peristyles of their dead palaces.

Thou criest from thy sleep; dost hear in dreams  
The priestess maidens singing by the Nile?  
Does their low chant drive thy dumb being mad  
With memory of life in Philæ's groves?

Whose entity thus paces to and fro?  
Does Alexander pant for worlds? Thy roar,  
Is it some Cæsar's fury at duress?  
In thy dun hide, does he of Marathon  
Brood in thy sullen wrath? Thy whimpering whine?  
Is Xerxes weeping still for Salamis?  
Their peoples are as naught—while thou? Thy race  
Is yet the jungle's prince; the desert's king.

But what is heritage to thee in chains?  
And what to thee is aught save liberty  
And the wild smell of hidden lairs, where calls  
Thy lonely mate across the Nubian night?



Know this, thou prince of Pers or priest of Nile,  
 In bondage and revolt thou'rt not alone.  
 O fellow captive, rest! Perhaps for us,  
 For thee and me, may wait still other forms;  
 With kings we yet may walk among the stars.

## Sonnet

What owe I to my sister of the poor?  
Or to my brother with blood-dripping hands?  
To him the golden largess of fair lands?  
To her the gauze and girdled gems' allure?  
Or shall I from God's mountain summits pure  
Bend down with pity of His love divine—  
But still as largess from some far off shrine—  
To heal the bruises which to life innure?

Nay, nay; a brotherhood that knows its own,  
Which passing, calls in no uncertain tone,  
While it extends the even hand of friend,  
“Hail, comrade hail! We fare the self-same way;  
Come, let us walk together for the day;  
Together we may find the wished-for end.”

## The Song of a Christian Sojourner in America in the Twentieth Century\*

If Christ be God, I Him adore;  
If Christ be man, I love Him more;  
God-gotten One of heavenly fame,  
Or Mary's son without a name;  
Messiah, King, or Nazarene,  
To me the same all titles mean;  
Still at His feet my all I lay,  
In life or death, I'm His alway;  
Nor Sin nor Hell shall come between.

---

\*With acknowledgments to Richard Watson Gilder and his poem, "The Song of a Heathen Sojourner in Galilee A. D. 32," which follows:

"If Jesus Christ is a man,—  
"And only a man,—I say  
"That of all mankind I cleave to him,  
"And to him will I cleave alway.  
  
"If Jesus Christ is a God,—  
"And the only God,—I swear  
"I will follow him through heaven and hell,  
"The earth, the sea, and the air."

## Patmos

O Patmos! Island of the visioned skies,  
 Where John beheld the wonders of the Sevens,—  
 The thunders, trumpets, and the vials of wrath  
 Poured out: the awful star-way of their path  
 To earth, from mysteries beyond the heavens!  
 O spread for us those fields of Paradise!

# To "H. H."

Helen Hunt Jackson, author of *Ramona*.

Her art, though beaten gold it lies,  
Her words atint with nature's dyes,  
Her deepest thought, the under flow  
Of ocean-silences below:  
'Twas not for these we loved her so.

Not even for the gentle grace  
That followed her in homeward place  
As perfume does a swaying flower;  
Not for her kindness' gracious dower;  
Not for the magic of her glance,  
When beauty's glint made sudden trance;  
Nor her quick ear for nature's cry,  
From "Hedge-row things" to human sigh;

Not for her courage in the face  
Of death, when with a royal grace,  
As kings unto their equals yield  
A sword well worn on worthy field,  
She gave her body to the hand  
Which holds the Maker's last command.

"How she loved us": her voice we hear.  
"It was for this she was so dear"—  
Her words—a flower upon her bier.

# **On Presentation of a Loving Cup to the Former Regent,\* Mrs. Ashburner**

Sister, by many acts endeared,  
As Daughters of a Cause revered  
Which held our sires in strongest band—  
This cup we offer to your hand.  
Sweeter than garlands on its rim,  
Glowing like wine within its brim,  
The sentiments from every soul  
Shall make of it a flowing bowl.  
Flowing and full it comes to you,  
Flowing with love which years renew,  
Love of the Cause which made sublime  
The conflicts of our fathers' time;  
And may this Cause of human kind  
Our hearts as theirs, forever bind.

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\*Sequoia Chapter, D. A. R., San Francisco, January 9, 1905.

## In Memoriam

Mrs. Jane Lathrop Stanford and Mrs. Ellen Mason Colton  
Sequoia Chapter, D. A. R.\*

True builders of the state were they,  
The sisters whom we mourn to-day;  
Builders who laid foundations wide  
In homes, the state's defense and pride;  
In homes whence high ideals might flow,  
Quickening all life to brighter glow;  
Builders who laid foundations deep  
In works which still their purpose keep;  
In works for public weal outwrought,  
Rich in the fruits of anxious thought,  
Rich in the stores of wealth outpoured  
For human good, a sacred hoard.

Such builders of the state were they  
As were their fathers in the day  
When this young nation made its own  
Th' Atlantic wilderness unknown.  
On houseless shores these women stood  
And wrought in faith of future good;  
True pioneers with steady tread,  
When sacrifice was daily bread;  
Worthy their names to live beside  
Their fathers' who in service died.  
Unto their ashes honor be  
From every child of liberty.  
Each daughter of Sequoia lays  
Upon their names her meed of praise;  
We reverence give unto their lives,  
As toilers, friends—as mothers, wives.

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\*San Francisco, March 1, 1905.

## In Her Studio\*

Within her shadowed room, the hush  
 Of silence where erst was heard  
 The sweetness of the welcoming word;  
 Upon the easel lies the brush  
 And hangs the palette bright, now dull and dry.  
 Her chair is empty, but the hands  
 Of skill have left their glowing trace  
 On canvas rich with many a place  
 Interpreted from far-off lands,  
 In tones like pastels from the orient sky.

Here pictured shrines of Philæ's shore,  
 Here Karnak's sphinx and templed halls;  
 The smooth-kissed stones of Zion's walls  
 Where Israel's sons their wails out-pour;  
 And here the sun-smit tombs of Judah's kings.  
 In cabinets of crusted bowls  
 Whose rose hues flush to life the clay,  
 Soft lights on tinted ivories play;  
 For hers was of those cosmic souls  
 Whose media lay in all material things.

---

\*In memory of Susan Merrill Farnham; read before the  
 Sequoia Chapter of the D. A. R., April 19, 1908.



## To a Friendly Critic

Vision so high that I am dazzled in my sight  
 With searching for the ether's utmost star  
 That was not meant to cast its beam so far  
 As this small earth-bound range of semi-night!  
 Half blind, rejoicing in the awful height,  
 For me no lesser sun can ever shine.  
 But oh, to reach that height and make it mine!  
 O God! the beauty of that far-off light!

The glimmered splendor of its slender ray  
 To twilight dim turns every nearer day;  
 When flashes its full glory on my eyes,  
 I faint upon the floor of paradise.  
 Better than love, better than life, a friend  
 Who will not let me choose ignoble end.

## Heart of a Rose Heart of a Man

A flurry of snow on the heart of a rose!

Ah me! Who knows

The chill that can strike to the heart of a rose!

On the heart of a man, a cruel tone!

Hast ever known

The thrust that can come from a cruel tone!

To the heart of the rose a sun-ray's gleam!

A smile's bright beam

To the heart of a man is a sun-ray's gleam.

## Sent With Regrets

Drink to me with a song, dear friends,  
When lips on love-notes dwell,  
And while the wine with music blends  
Till lovely bosoms swell.

And when the feast is at its flow  
And hearts are swinging free,  
Then drink with love-light all aglow,  
One sweet good night to me.

## A Choice

An angel stooped down from the hill-side;  
 He was holding a golden thread  
 All strung with the jewels of promise,  
 Just swaying above my head.

Of love there were blood red rubies,  
 And the pearls of peace were there.  
 As I reached for the gems in my rashness,  
 Spake a voice, "Beware, beware."

"But one canst thou choose," said the angel,  
 "Nor again shall I pass this way."  
 And I clasped a single treasure;  
 But it burnt with a changeless ray.

In my hand I gathered this jewel  
 That blazed beyond all compare;  
 And I laughed and I wept as I held it,  
 For the heart of a friend lay there.

## Grievance

One time I grieved; I shivered as in fright  
At cold words spoke by love's usurpéd right.  
To me all trembling, spake the faithful Night:  
"Why grieve that Love in ardor spake so stern;  
The purest flame may in its white heat burn;  
Not in your wrath, God's noblest blessing spurn."

## The Soul of a Kiss

Just the breath of a kiss that passed and vanished,  
 Like a sunbeam stolen away,—  
 But the soul of a kiss to lips that were famished  
 For its life that lives for aye.

Somewhere in the reach of the vast eternal,  
 The soul of that kiss again  
 Will call to me from the heights supernal  
 With its solemn, sweet Amen.

And my soul shall answer softly,  
 Softly and low of tone;  
 No height nor depth nor ages  
 But my soul shall know its own.

## **"Men Kiss and Ride Away"**

While yet in maidens' throats the chords are swelling,  
Men ride away.

While yet within their hearts the song is welling,  
Men ride away.

From stirrup-cups with hasty love-foam rimming,  
From lips that pout with kisses still a-brimming,  
Men ride away.

With love-tones on the riders' lips still ringing,  
Their horses' hoof-notes to the music swinging,  
Men ride away.

From eyes that woke at love's too tender pleading,  
Men ride away.  
From hearts where love a-faint lies dumb and bleeding,  
Men ride away.

## The Child in the Heart

There's a child in my heart that sings and sings,  
"O life is love and life is fair;"  
When my heart has peace and the spirit has wings,  
Then I know that the child is singing there.

When the restless, midnight vigils I keep,  
And suffer for trifles which pass away,  
I know that the child in my heart is asleep.  
Ah me! Will it wake another day?

When I fret at the burden of hourly strife,  
I know that the child from my soul has fled.  
Woe is me for the joy that is lost to my life,  
If ever the child in my heart be dead!



# “Love May Not Sing Again”

Love may not sing again! Awake, awake,  
My heart, and one more draught of rapture take;  
    Quaff deep while to your lip the joy is pressed;  
Drink, drink before the golden bowl shall break.

It is a god would sup with you to-night;  
Lose not in dreams his forehead's visioned sight.  
    Not vain upon your threshold poured his wine,—  
It would to an immortal feast invite.

O Heart awake! Too soon Love's song is passed;  
Too soon his goblet to the ground is cast;  
    An instant lost, remains the desert waste,—  
Nor tears, nor blood, nor prayers recall the last.

Awake, awake! Love may not sing again;  
Not every day within your spirit's ken  
    You'll hear the wizard voice of Love's delight:  
O Soul! Lift up and cry “Amen, Amen.”

## If Love Were All

If love were all, the way were fair.  
 Love reads its own by surest signs;  
 But life slips in between the lines  
 Its elegies of carp and care.

Comes policy with narrowed eye,  
 And Friendship masked in Duty's smile;  
 Their sophistries the heart beguile.  
 O Love be brave; the world defy!

O song of love—the sky-lark's call!  
 O light that pales the morning star,  
 And makes a heaven look dim and far!  
 O halcyon days,—if love were all.

## Love Is Dead

A form across my threshold lies;  
The light has fled from its dull eyes;  
Is that what means this pulse of pain?  
That Love, by its own hand, lies slain,—  
The only way Love ever dies.

## Dead Love

Of all that's cold in Arctic skies,  
Of all that's dead in mother-earth,  
There's naught so cold as love that dies;  
Nor dead as love that once had birth.

## Truth

“What then is truth?” ’Twas Pilate’s jeer,  
This greatest question of all time.  
And centuries would pause to hear  
The answer to the Roman’s sneer,  
This greatest question of all time.

## Truth

A jewel hidden in the depths,  
A star adrift in space;  
Then laugh the gods that mortal man  
Should think to know his place.

## Vita Brevis

Unless as part of some great thought,  
Why struggle on?  
Our single roles are far too short;  
And life is done,  
Work just begun.



## Love's Divination

For love alone must conquer doubt;  
Reason in vain may flout  
Her cause, effect and sequence fine;  
Our hearts the voice must hear,  
And only love's own ear  
Truth's finest cadence may divine.



## De Profundis

My Soul!  
 Can this as truth abide,  
 That in the light which beamed  
 From riven tomb and manger-altar side  
 I have but dreamed?

Alas!  
 Was there no Holy Child  
 In Bethlehem's stable born?  
 No sacrifice on Calvary's dark hillside,  
 Nor Easter morn?

Awake!  
 God of our fathers, speak;  
 Savior long-promised, come!  
 Where shall we find the truth our spirits seek,  
 If thou art dumb?

Behold!  
 Nature flows on apace,  
 Unchanged and undisturbed;  
 Science reveals each year a nobler grace;  
 From Thee, no word.

A-faint!  
 We stagger towards the end;  
 A close-locked door we meet;  
 "Father," we call Thee, but we find no friend.  
 O wandering feet!

Woe! Woe!  
 Passed is the faith of yore;  
 Our graves yawn very nigh;  
 And like the millions who have loved before,  
 We only die.

## The Gift

Because I cannot speak the word  
    The greatest human lips have known;  
Because my ear may not have heard  
    The mightiest of God's thunder-tone;

Because I could not probe the heart  
    To depths which God alone should see,  
I have despised the humbler part  
    With which the Master trusted me.

O bastard gifts of unknown birth!  
    O soul that cannot read the skies!  
Avaunt thy offerings, little worth!  
    Deaf ears accursed and blinded eyes!

## Sleep

To sleep! To float upon a dreamless wave!  
To feel the wind-swept senses softly close  
Their portals from the currents of the day!  
Delicious languor of the drooping lids!  
A healing darkness on the aching eyes,  
When sounds become but dying cadences  
Which murmur into wooing silences;  
The soft sweet wonder of forgetfulness  
That creeps with its narcotic on each nerve:  
Then slips the soul her anchor from all thought;  
On each receding tide of consciousness,  
She drifts away upon oblivion's sea,  
Far out to calm upon the ocean's night.

## Peace

Peace! Is it the dull  
 Low ache that follows in the lull  
 Of pain? Is it the sob  
 Of waning senses when the startled throb  
 Of passion's pulse has passed? Is it the glow  
 Of sorrow's aftermath? Or yet the slow  
 Benumbing torpor of too satisfied desire?  
 Or is it hearth-stone vesper by the fire?

Is it the Autumn fruitage, or the thrill  
 Of promise in the opening bud of Spring?  
 Is it the folded or the spreading wing?  
 Or is it yet the pliant will  
 To suffer and be still?

Nay, it is none of these, I know.  
 What is it thus I seek, turned to and fro?  
 It flees me like the holy grail  
 That vanished over hill and mere and vale.  
 And faint as hymning of the angel forms which bore  
 That jewel-cup forever on before,  
 There comes a voice: "Let wandering cease;  
 In thine own place, thy soul shall find its peace."

## The "*Reproaches*"

"O, my people! why my sorrow hanging on the bitter  
tree!

Why for all the gain I wrought ye, gave ye but such  
pain to me!

"Though I flayed the pride of Egypt, scourged ye me  
with cruel rod;

Though I slew her first-born for thee, fell my blood  
on Calvary's sod;

"For the fiery pillars standing behind ye at Egypt's  
sea,

Pillar of the flagellation, O, my children! gave ye me;

"Led I ye from your tormentors, gave ye me unto my  
foe;

Though I gave ye mighty sceptre, crown of thorns  
mocked my great woe;

"Though in deserts with sweet fountains and white  
manna ye I fed,

Vinegar unto my thirst ye gave when faintness bowed  
my head."

## Easter

O soul, be still! Scourge not thyself with doubt.  
Tear not thy little life about  
With fever of a baffling quest  
For what the angels seek, thou temporary guest.

Even as thou, the primal man was dumb  
When from dead husks he saw new beauty come,  
And when from nerveless grubby things,  
The while he looked, bright crumpled wings  
Burst forth in haste to meet the sun. Not thou  
To-day hast more with thy demanding brow  
Of this earth-mystery of life from death,—  
This master-question of creation's breath,  
When out of seeming death unfold  
New lives more fair than were the old.

Go read the life-bloom scattered wide  
On hill and field at Easter-tide.  
From death comes life, the wonder-promise spread  
For man before he had his stranger-being read.

And when my heart is with the silent band,  
And thou for mine shalt lift another hand,  
Thou'll see new roses from each winter dead  
In garlands wreathed about some maiden's head,  
Their petals tinted from the petals shed.

Each Spring-time answers to thy riddle-making strife,  
"Recurrent resurrection is eternal life."

## Stabat Mater

O Thou Mournful Mother, standing by the cross with  
eyes uplift  
Where thy stricken Son was hanging when doubt's  
sword thine own heart rift!

Vain man's cry of *Stabat Mater*, wailing down the  
mournful years,  
To rehearse thy living anguish and the meaning of  
thy tears;

If on earth one knew thy woe, some mother like thy-  
self 'twould be,  
Wrung by pangs for which 'twere vain to seek words'  
idle pageantry.

Such with pain transfixéd stand as thou beside the  
struggling clay,  
Dumb and lifting helpless hands in heritage of Eden's  
day.

And to these thou showest near the might of thy  
stupendous pain—  
Woe supremest save the cry that rent the temple's veil  
in twain.

Such alone the fiery baptism which may give thy grief  
to know,  
Thou who art the ideal Mother sacred to earth's  
holiest woe.

Lovely type of purest sorrow! Solitude thy fitting  
shrine,  
For the giddy world has nothing for an anguish such  
as thine.

And thy face with woe transfigured tells from altars  
    grand or rude,  
How a mother's pain may be a soul's sublime  
    beatitude.



## A Good Friday Devotion

*(Written during service, April, 1909.)* ' .

Lo, even now, the sky's far rim,  
By seraphs flecked and full of song;  
Darkness and silence were not long;  
The end of woe has come for Him.

O Mother! Look unto the dawn;  
Draw out the sword that pierced thy heart;  
He has fulfilled the cruel part;  
Forever more 'tis Easter Morn.

## The Mater Pia

Softly the fading moon dies in the sky;  
Softly sigh night winds their sweet lullaby;  
Star-eyes of angels are watching with me,—  
Lullaby, lullaby, God is with thee.

O Babe, a tear-drop in thy sleep!  
O Israel's wayward, lagging feet!  
Why linger thy Messiah to greet!  
Rachel, do mothers always weep!

What mean this transport and this pain?  
God of my sires, across my sight  
A vision drifts of storm and light,—  
A flaming crown, a victim slain.

Sleep on, sweet Babe; awhile to me  
Is given to hush thy human cry;  
I worship with the lullaby,  
And give the reverent breast to thee.

Softly the fading moon dies in the sky;  
Softly sigh night winds their sweet lullaby;  
Star-eyes of angels are watching with me,—  
Lullaby, lullaby, God is with thee.

## The First Christmas

O Mary, drooping by the door  
Which closed before thy weary feet,  
Fainting upon the court-yard's crowded floor,  
We see thee patient, sweet.

Patient and sweet; no murmur falls  
From lips that curve with coming pain,  
For angel voices in the cattle-stalls  
Thy flagging strength sustain.

O wondrous night! O love divine!  
O star that startled Eastern skies!  
O glory of the manger-temple's shrine,  
Earth's rapture and surprise!

O Mother, hailed the blessed maid!  
Did'st hear between thy smiles and tears,  
When first within thine arms the Babe was laid,  
The songs of grateful years?

We speak thy name with loving praise,  
And thy *Magnificat* shall ring  
Till thee we meet, at ending of the days,  
Before thy Son, the King.

## Love Is Saved

What you most loved but could not save  
You will not find with watching by a grave,  
For that great love your being craved,  
God had already saved.

## Farther Shores

Their ships sailed on—sailed on; was left  
My bark to struggle with the storm;  
And of their beckoning smiles bereft,  
I sat till twilight wrapped my form.  
And still I sail and sail 'mid stress  
Of seas and change of day and night;  
Though tossed upon the waves' distress,  
Somehow I glide into the light.

I know not how the skies grow clear,  
Nor do I see the guiding hand,  
As 'midst the changing floods I steer,  
My eyes upon a distant band  
Of light that shows a nearing shore.  
I think it is the gleam of day,  
Where they await me evermore  
Whose ships sailed on and far away.

## In Bondage

Better than I thou Lord dost know  
The heart beneath this crust of earth,  
The trammels of the fleshly birth,  
The clay which crowds and binds us so.

This strong-weak body from my soul  
Importunate its will demands;  
And scarce the service of my hands  
Can its infirmities control.

Thou knowest all the wingéd thought  
Which panting, bound, would fly to Thee.  
Accept the worship that would be,  
And which in wishing, still is wrought.

## The Waiting Note\*

In the full celestial chorus  
 Lacks one strain that waits for me,  
 Note of that immortal measure  
 From earth's death-note ever free.  
 May I with my heart's own spirit  
 Catch that harmony divine;  
 Strike the chord with tone unerring,  
 Knowing it as only mine.

Mine with not a broken cadence;  
 Mine for God's eternal chime,  
 Keyed to heavenly diapason  
 When the worlds He swung in time;  
 In majestic majors swelling,  
 Mine where men and angels meet,  
 And the spheres in grand crescendo  
 Lay their worship at His feet.

---

\*Dedicated to President Susan L. Mills of Mills College and sung by the surpliced choir of young lady students at the celebration of her eighty-fifth birthday.

## A Rustic Bridge

A rustic bridge; the copse at dawn  
 Adrip with sweetness of the night;  
 From out the reaches of the lawn,  
 A lark rose up beyond my sight.  
 The air was quivering with his song's wild lay  
 That shook and sparkled in the sunbeam's ray.

. . . . .

I hear across the chasmed years  
 The buoyance of that song to-day;  
 Hast thou the note dispelling tears,  
 To leave when thou art far away!  
 Yea soul, love's word can thrill from planets far;  
 God's love can ring from star to utmost star.



## Vespers

Though I be old, alone, and dying fast,  
Weary of limb, infirm of step and slow,  
Before my darkened eyes fair visions go:  
Just now I heard the angels as they passed.

Thou eager Soul, canst bear with lagging Death  
For yet awhile, as Day endures the Night?  
Keep clear thy vision for the inner sight,  
And our new form shall have immortal breath.

I feel thee flutter with the life to be,  
O Soul, as thou would'st try thy fledging wings.  
Be still! Hush thou thine ear for farther things!  
Not long this fading form will hinder thee.

## L'Envoi

Deep heart of love where never sound is heard,  
 Beneath the wash and wave of any word,  
     From out our vision shut the earthly day  
 And we shall see God's ocean gardens sway,—

Fair lives cut off in promise of their flower;  
 Beauty in bud; manhood despoiled of power;  
     And there, into immortal beauty grown,  
 Loves which on earth were but in shadow thrown.



# Songs of the Pacific

**[From "*Francisca Reina and Other Poems*":  
*A. M. Robertson, San Francisco*  
1912]**



## California's Hymn

Before us lie the seas which bring the east unto the west;  
 The oriental Sphinx has bared the secrets of her breast,  
 And calls on us for answer to her riddles all unguessed  
       Since stars went rolling on.

Half-blinded with the gold dust from our smitten moun-  
       tain coves,  
 For years we wandered dreaming in our fig and orange  
       groves,  
 While the placers of our wheat fields gleamed with  
       golden treasure-troves,  
       And we went gaily on.

Garden-valleyed are our hillsides — softest hand that  
       gloves the steel —  
 But the will is rock beneath them for our country's  
       righteous weal;  
 Our heritage of birthright we will guard with deathless  
       zeal,  
       As the peoples go marching on.

For our children's souls shall answer with a spark of  
       holy fire  
 When smitten on the anvil of a pure and bold desire,  
 Till the blows become the key-note of the world's advanc-  
       ing choir,  
       As the future goes marching on.

## The California Eschscholtzia

The orange hue of the rainbow  
Is not so deep as thine;  
More rich than a golden goblet  
Influshing with sun-lit wine.

On its calyx of pink thy corolla  
Catches sheen from the passing sun,  
As if powder of pearls were dusted  
And gleamed thy soft gold upon.

Of a truth, the dainty fay-maidens  
Must have crimped thine edge so thin  
Alike to some fairyland pattern,  
On thy stamen for golden pin.

Deep down in the cup of thy petals  
One spot of a purple stain,  
Where the elves forgot in their revels  
The last bright drop to drain.

As the scintillant dust of amber  
In the sun does thy pollen shine;  
Such powder Queen Mab might covet  
To burnish her locks divine.

At dusk thou modestly closest  
Thy petals with jealous fold;  
All night thou cosily sleepest  
In a tent of the cloth of gold.

## A Stanford Hymn\*

Against the night, the skies disclose  
Their beauty shadow-fraught;  
From out the night, a star arose;  
Through sorrow, gleamed a thought.

But for the grief which sat by death,  
And dreamed its dream alone,  
Our Alma ne'er had felt God's breath  
Turning to life the stone,—

God's breath of love, to purpose warm  
Transmuting human loss;  
Revealing life's ideal form  
To those beneath the cross.

O Stanford, look unto the height!  
Athene-like, thy youth!  
Led by thy star, seek thou thy might  
In time's advancing truth!

---

\*Written for the Stanford Annual, THE QUAD, 1904.



## A Consecration for a Non-Sectarian Church\*

Before this new-made altar, Lord,  
Passions and cavilings we lay,  
All prejudices which would stay  
Our spirits from a sweet accord  
With love,—that love which wrought man's good,  
Not in the controversial creeds,  
But shone, by serving daily needs,  
Divine in human brotherhood.

O sweet home-love! This love divine,  
Interpreting with sorrow's art,  
How hast thou, on a broken heart,  
Upreared the spirit's sacred shrine,  
That other souls may reach the height  
Of temples builded without hand,  
Wherein eternal law shall stand  
And God himself shall be the light.

---

\*At the dedication of the Memorial Church, Stanford University, January 25, 1908.

## The Song of the Colorado River\*

To my own again in the Salton Sea,  
 As the Indians sagas of old have said,  
 When times and a time of my exile shall be,  
 I will leap again from my rock-bound bed.

For ages that deep dry sea was mine,  
 For me she unbarred her ocean gates;  
 And forever my sea shells and corallines shine  
 On her brow, uncrowned by the envious fates.

How that land was fair when I lay on her breast  
 With verbenas aflame and green with the palms!  
 Ten thousand ages of beauty and rest  
 In the glow of her bloom and her passionate charms!

But a jealous Titan earthward bent,  
 And the rocks he smote both far and wide;  
 I slipped from her arms through the mountain rent;  
 Ah, then on her forehead the garlands died.

For æons she lay with her sands unsought;  
 I was chafing and bound in my narrow bed;  
 But the times and a time their days have wrought,  
 And I come again as the sagas have said.

Though again I be bound I will come from afar,  
 To the sea and the land of my heart's desire;  
 My gates of rock I will thrust ajar,  
 For the Indian sagas are written in fire.

---

\*The Indians of the South have a tradition that the Colorado River first went through the Indian basin to the Gulf, and that the miles of desert which now lie so far below the sea level were lake, and that the whole country was most fertile and had a mild climate. They also have a legend that the river will surely return to its old bed from which it was turned by a comparatively recent convulsion of nature. When the late break in the banks of the Colorado made the Salton Sea, there was great rejoicing among them, since, according to the legend, the return presaged great benefit to the natives.

## The Spirit of the Desert

An Indian rides across the plain;  
 And crushed beneath his pony's tread  
 The alkali's white crystals shine;  
 Red wheels the sun high overhead.

Stolid of face and sombre-eyed;  
 His mustang's bridle trails aground;  
 The sullen lassitude of heat,  
 Of smothering light, enfolds them round.

Hot hazes rise; in shimmering veil,  
 The panting breath of parchéd earth,  
 Their silhouette grows dim; a speck  
 They fade into the desert-dearth.

## San Francisco Bay

Grandest bay! upon whose bosom navies of the world  
might rest,  
Gently holdest thou a mirror to the white gull's snowy  
breast,

And thy deep arterial currents, drawn from ocean's  
throbbing heart,  
Bear as light the iron monster or the white skiff to thy  
mart;

Rainbows quiver 'neath thy surface; heaven repeats  
itself below;  
As a spirit to a substance, softer there its colors glow.

Leagues to northward, leagues to southward, wanders  
thy adventurous strand,  
And thy sinuous arms extending gather wealth from all  
the land;

Wide thy Golden Gate stands open to all nations of the  
world;  
Free between its stately portals all flags are in peace  
unfurled.

Beauteous Gate, when loitering sunset covers thee with  
burnished gold!  
Mighty Gate, when surging ocean thy strong cliffs alone  
withhold!

Treach'rous Gate, deceiving many with a name most fair  
to see!  
Blesséd Gate, where millions find the golden boon of  
liberty!

## La Casa Grande

On the Gila's sun-burnt plain  
 Where naught but the mesquit grows,  
 And the fevered breath of the sullen simoon  
 From off the desert blows;

Where the earth's dry lips are athirst  
 And the Gila monsters crawl,  
 Stands a house of adobe alone and despoiled  
 By the years which scatter all.

The Indian as wrinkled and sere  
 As the leaf that rustles aground,  
 Has no legend-torch its grey depth to light,  
 And echo can find no sound.

No house of its kin on the plain;  
 Life refuses its brotherhood now;  
 Even Death has laid a reluctant hand  
 On La Casa Grande's brow.

## The Pacific

The monarch of waters! the giant Pacific!  
 How dwells he forever in kingly estate!  
 One mighty hand grasping the Orient hoary,  
 The other wide-spanning the Golden Gate!  
 Far beyond the white cliffs of Thor and of Odin,  
 The centuries' snows are a crown for his head;  
 Borealis, his torch-bearer, lights his state chambers,  
 And the icebergs their flame-tinted canopies spread.

To his warm heart he presses his bride with her graces,  
 Low responses she gives through her forests' deep  
                   chimes

To his wooing, in softest tide-cadences uttered,  
 While their love-tale the minstrel wind bears to all  
                   climes.

High lifts she aloft the gigantic Sequoia,  
 To catch on her brow the smile of his face;  
 And the moons that are whitest and the suns that are  
                   clearest  
 For ages have looked on their loving embrace.

California, bride of the princely Pacific!  
 All proudly we gaze on the stores that are thine;  
 Not the gold that was torn from thy breast with thy  
                   crying,  
 But a greater boon ask from thy treasures' deep  
                   mine—  
 E'en a throb from thy life when thy soul was awaking,  
 When the darkness was smitten ere dawned had the  
                   day;  
 When the light of the cross with the sabre's flash  
                   mingled,  
 And the chaos of change in thy morn rolled away.

## The Yukon's Song of the Gold

Lo! We are the waters that come from afar,  
 From the heart of the earth so young, so old,  
 Whose life-blood flows from the granite and spar,—  
 The heart that lies under the northern star;  
 And we bring you the song of the ancient gold,  
     The waters' song of the gold.

In the cavern-retorts of the master-smith Time,  
 It seethed in the heat and crumbled in cold;  
 When the forests uplifted their giant prime  
 And the saurians trailed through the ooze and slime,  
 He still was annealing the molten gold,  
     The unsunned and the nameless gold.

Ere Thor was a thought or Odin spoke,  
 The gleaming quartz into billows rolled;  
 Then eternal silence in echoes awoke,  
 When the billows uplifted to crags and broke  
 In the terrible song of the crashing gold,  
     The song of the grinding gold.

We scraped it down with the glaciers' might  
 From cranny and crevice of mountain fold;  
 When the altar-flame of Auroral light  
 To a temple had turned the Arctic night,  
 Then the ether throbbed with our chant of the gold,  
     The psalm of our votive gold.

In the ice-dark caves our soul was stirred  
 As men called for our help in the cañon's hold;  
 Deep under the glaciers our name we heard,  
 In the secret springs we leaped at the word;  
 We shouted and sung the wild song of the gold,  
     The song of our waiting gold.

From the benches' wash in the river-sluiçe  
 A primitive man scooped the shining mould;  
 But our pebbles have taught you the rifles' use;  
 Rejoicing, we make you a play-day truce  
 To hunt from your sluice-box toys the gold,  
     Your trifle of captured gold.

Our strength we chain to their narrow bound,  
 But we scoff when you say we are bought and sold;  
 With a plunge and a flash, far below we are found  
 In the river our home; and the hills resound  
 With our fetterless song while you sweep up the gold,  
     While you gloat on the virgin gold.

When the pick on the river's bank is still  
 And men come not to the snow-lapped wold,  
 Then our song that was loosed at the primal thrill  
 Of chaos pulsed with the infinite Will,  
 Shall ring as at first through cañons of gold,  
     The cañons of unsought gold.



## The Malamute Dog of Alaska

Thou, ruler and slave of the frozen plain!  
 Thou, Malamute dog with the voice of pain!  
 Is it thine or a spirit's, that demon howl,  
 That snap and snarl, and whimpering growl  
 Which chills like the curse of the slain?

Thou wolf-faced thing with the jaws of steel  
 And the fangs that the blood-red lips reveal;  
 With appealing eyes which seem to entreat;  
 With thy thieving heart, and thy patient feet  
 For the trail where the snows congeal!

Thou wonder of blended good and ill!  
 What gives to thy tones that human thrill?  
 For war on the gods, condemned to thy form  
 Do vikings and dwarfs in the Arctic storm  
 Purgatorial penance fulfill?

Strange creature! Thy cry on the northern night  
 Wails forth beneath the Auroral light,  
 As if earth heard again the wild shriek of her woe  
 When Odin's life-blood stained the halls of snow,  
 The snow-halls on Valhalla's height.

# On the Spanish Missions in California

[*Selections from "A California Pilgrimage":*  
*Samuel Carson & Co., San Francisco*  
1884]

*I questioned thus with the spirit:*

*“O, how can I do this thing?*

*The pattern is long and hard,” I said,*

*“My thought but a slender string.”*

*“O, faithless child,” quoth the spirit,*

*“Begin but to weave, nor doubt;*

*While the other end of the skein we hold,*

*How can the thread give out?”*

## Proem

Tells the cumbrous page historic how the Missions rose  
and fell,  
Founded by the Frays Franciscan—long their souls in  
heaven dwell!

How in wretched caravels the padres came from  
Mejico,  
Churchly gifts and treasures bearing o'er the long  
waves dipping slow;

How when 'midst the dreary voyage storms hissed o'er  
the blackened sea,  
Calm their *O Regina* mingled with that fearful  
minstrelsy.

Fair as vale of Andalusia to their ocean-weary eyes,  
California spread her beauties 'neath a tent of cloud-  
less skies.

Rich as Spain's oft-chanted *vegas* lay her valleys  
undefiled,  
And recalled their own Nevadas, white Sierras far and  
wild.

To them seemed the mountain torrents, rushing down  
the cañons deep,  
As loved Tagus or as Darro from Granada's rugged  
steep.

## San Diego

In the College San Fernando, in the State of Mejico,  
Hangs a canvas dim with shadows thrown a century  
ago;

From it looks a monk Franciscan, in his order's robe  
complete,  
Cowléd serge and hempen girdle falling to his sandaled  
feet;

In his hand he holds a stone with which to beat his  
naked breast;  
Near him lie a skull and scourge, and stands the chalice  
ever blessed;

Scintillant 'neath glowing faith, burns zeal as deathless  
and as bright  
As the fire on Aztec temples through a fervid tropic  
night:

Such was Padre Serra preaching, as they say who  
knew him well,  
Fray Junípero whose labors now but ruined altars tell.

Serra thence all blindly wandered, dreaming not the  
stores of fate,  
O'er the place which should be later by his brothers  
consecrate;

O'er the land where Coronado and De Niça sought  
in vain  
For the seven-storied city — the Quivira of the plain,

Where the marigolds upspringing o'er the hasty graves  
should tell,

By a miracle of verdure, where the faithful friars fell;

Where procession of the murdered should pace o'er  
the blood-stained sand,

Each one bearing through night's darkness torch  
flamboyant in his hand,

While before them cross majestic, borne by unseen ones  
along,

Should cast such unearthly radiance on the chanting  
white-robed throng,

They should seem as flaming spirits, purging desecrated  
ground

With their versicles and incense, broken altars round  
and round;

Till these pagans, sorely frightened at the phantom night  
by night,

Should flee hasty leagues far southward from the weird  
avenging sight.

Hence out-straying from his course to borders of the  
desert-land,

Where the cacti and mesquit yet mingle with the drift-  
ing sand;

Where shrink from the dry lakes sand-choked, e'en the  
bitter streams away,

And dead craters, with their burnt lips, lap the red  
sun's blasting ray;

Still they toiled the hot earth o'er, where sea-shells  
gleamed on waves of sand;  
Swept o'er them the dread sirocco 'neath the fierce light  
of that land.

Then with guile a strange mirage raised fevered moun-  
tains in their sight;  
Rose such walls as once on Patmos lay against supernal  
light;

Sprung tall minarets from temples tipped with balls of  
golden glow,  
Casting spires of waving shadow on the bird-flecked  
lakes below.

Toiled they on through Arizuma, land as wondrous  
winter fair;  
But the spring-time's life had withered and the sum-  
mer death was there.

Onward, though the red simoon still sullen o'er the  
white dunes roll;  
Spake the soldiers, "God in heaven! hath this hideous  
place a soul?"

Then quoth Serra, "Lo! the answer," pointing where  
their eager eyes  
Saw from whorl of spikéd cactus, tall white tree of  
blossoms rise.\*

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\*The Yucca, or Spanish Bayonet.

Shaft, as marble of Carrara—graved as with a sculptor's care;  
Carven tower of polished petals, graced with stamens  
waxen fair.

Spake he, "Children, let your lives be e'en thus rich  
in holy deeds,  
Blooming in the fiery desert which would stifle common  
weeds."

Thus encouraged, toiled they onward, till from height  
of sea-girt shore,  
Saw they ship masts upward pointing, telling their long  
journey o'er;

For the rude ships from La Paz, which sought Viscaino's Monterey,  
Lay with sailors sick or dead in San Diego's close-  
locked bay.

Three moons Serra's friends had waited for his band  
they mourned as dead,  
Roaming o'er the coast and *mesa* where Spring's  
blazonry was spread—

Turquoise stars and stars of sapphire laid she on her  
burnished green,  
Sweetly decking, fitly matching lawns of every hue and  
sheen;

Honeysuckle's conscious sweetness—white petunia's  
graceful cup,  
Blue-eyed, meek forget-me-nots that never for a maid  
looked up.



The ambitious pigmy thistles — tiny heads with pluméd  
hair—

And the oxalis white-petaled, with her nun-like grace,  
were there;

Censers all unblessed with incense—wild *Eschscholtzias*'  
golden bowls;

Rose they call Castile, from mem'ries planted deep in  
homesick souls.

Sick and dying, from their vessels came the Spaniards  
to such land,

But ere Serra saw it, ravished—shorn by Summer's  
scorching hand.

But naught quenched his deathless ardor; pealed his  
bells from scrubby tree—

Glad as if from storied turret, told they Christmas  
jubilee.

When at length th' impatient soldiers, with their  
suff'rings reckless grown,

And despairing of th' *Antonio*, storm-bound long in  
seas unknown,

Goaded fierce with cruel hunger, measure set for their  
delay,

Saying, "Leave we on Saint Joseph's, if she come not  
ere that day,"

All night at the altar lay he, till th' appointed dawn,  
when, lo!

Saw they by vouchsaféd vision in the clouds a good  
ship go.

Still prayed on th' undoubting Serra; when the fourth  
                   day nigh was done,  
 O'er the tide a ship bread-laden sailed athwart the  
                   setting sun.

All his life the grateful father, for deliv'rance of that  
                   day,  
 Celebrated mass memorial on the feast of San José.

And some tell that still they see in San Diego's sunny  
                   sky,  
 On this day, through phantom clouds, a phantom ship  
                   go sailing by.

\* \* \* \* \*

And they named the first young Mission for the  
                   humblest of the saints,  
 Eremita at tender age, when life her richest colors  
                   paints;

Didacus, the Andalusian, who came from his hermit  
                   cave  
 To serve Alcalá's sick beggars, eager life's worst ills to  
                   brave.

Then was reared the once fair structure, which to-day  
                   a ruined pile,  
 Stolid sits upon the hillside, frowning at the valley's  
                   smile;

Frowning e'en upon the river, where the hill its current  
                   hems,  
 Shining thread of curling tinsel twisted round the olive  
                   stems;

Olives weird and ever moon-lit flecking all the plain with  
light,  
Till the groining of their shadows mocks the artist's cunning rite.

Arméd cacti, as defending, by the garden wall now  
stand;  
But the gentle palms, desponding, scarcely lift protesting  
hand.

Gone all sign of churchly usage—gone the trace of  
padres' care;  
Bells nor cross proclaim the story that His worship e'er  
was there.

Not a saint nor altar standing; not a mural legend dear;  
In the windows' deep embrasure dismal owls hold orgies  
drear.

Mass of sun-burnt bricks adóbe, half embanked in red  
decay;  
Walls and roof proclaim its story—dust to dust and  
clay to clay.

Parent Mission, well belovéd! built in faith, baptized in  
tears!  
Man sees only Time's fruition—God looks farther than  
the years!

**San Luis Rey de Francia**

Wide these Margarita Mountains open cañons wild and  
deep,  
Leading to San Luis Valley, then to eastward boldly  
sweep;

Low they crouch that o'er their shoulders Santa Rosa's  
head may rise,  
Reaching toward one dream-like vision of the sea-  
reflected skies;

Circling arms they interlace, till to San Luis' hills they  
reach;  
These to westward, boldly stretching, hide the gleam of  
shell-bright beach.

Down the cañon runs the river—Luis called for kingly  
saint—  
Winter current bold and rapid, summer stream with  
languor faint;

Ere its bent course meets the ocean, to a vale the hills  
expand—  
Lonely mountain-circled valley, once the padres' pleas-  
ant land.

Here they built a stately structure on a southward  
sloping hill—  
Castle with its guns commanding all the valley, wide and  
still;

Once "most splendid of the Missions," as the chronicler  
relates;  
Now Destruction keeps each portal—Death e'en at the  
altar waits.

Once "most splendid of the Missions," and to-day its  
 roods appear  
 In their utter desolation, than the Sodom plains more  
 drear.

'Neath the roof of flaming frescoes to the wall a pulpit  
 clings  
 And a canopy above it, like a bat with outspread wings.

In a chancel grandly lighted by a stately lifted dome,  
 Three great altars' tarnished splendor tells e'en yet the  
 hand of Rome.

Now appears of former wealth but one old silver crucifix,  
 And at masses burn the tapers in quaint silver candle-  
 sticks.

Worship rarely wakes the echoes, burial service yet is  
 said,  
 Marriage, baptism, and the masses for the rest of faith-  
 ful dead.

Then through high round arches springing from the  
 frescoed columns nigh,  
 Weird old music throbs in anthems from the gall'ry old  
 and high;

Indian voices and old viols—cadences which haunt the  
 brain—  
 Drear as wail of ghosts returned, their own death-mass  
 to chant again;

And the *Dominus Vobiscum* and responses dismal sung,  
Meeting o'er the low-bent kneelers, hang like pall above  
them flung;

Till the prayer, the *Dies Iræ*, in the ferial monotone,  
Sobs like backward drifting sigh of those who waited  
Christ's last moan.

But the curling incense rises with as subtle grace of line,  
As e'er marked its spiral circles round La Sainte  
Chapelle's fair shrine.

Borne upon the chant's intoning, drifts it through the  
doorway wide,  
Falling soft as benediction on the sleepers side by side.

In the corridors adjoining, paced the priests at even-  
tide,  
Looking o'er the broken valley and their garden reach-  
ing wide;

Garden once of toilsome labors, miles of wall and arched  
gateway,  
Tiled steps to a lake descending—lake deep-fringed  
with willow spray,

Now a marsh where shrieking wild fowl come storm-  
driven from the sea;  
Stalk the cranes 'mong cacti hedges—desolation's  
revelry.

One tall palm in tropic splendor—blessed where wrath  
on all is poured—  
Lingers, as last guest departing from a banquet's  
ravished board.

Unloved seems this lonely valley, wind-swept from the  
ocean near;  
Rank weeds claim its sweeping acres — e'en its homes  
look dark and drear;

And the Pilgrims heard a legend which o'ercast the  
sacred place,  
As might doubt of final mercy dim the light of saint-like  
face.

For 'tis said that godless aliens, on a midnight storm-  
hid quest,  
Tore its paves for use unhallowed and its bricks for  
walls unblessed.

E'en from out the tabernacle, holy things in haste were  
borne;  
Stood accursed the sacrilegious—scathed as trees by  
lightning torn.

And thereafter when black storm-clouds caught the stars  
from watching eyes,  
O'er the garden's fringed lakelet, noisome vapors would  
arise,

Rise and shape to human figures, draped in penitential  
serge;  
On their knees in dread procession, wrought they to the  
blast's wild dirge.

Semblance bright of silver vessels, some bore with atoning hand,  
While weird light from cross and chalice lit the dark tile-laden band.

Up the garden's paved steps toiling—gate and walls no hindrance gave—  
Resting not for rugged hill-side, till through desecrated nave

Passed they, laying on the altar what each thence had seized before,  
While strove some, with bootless labors, walls and pavements to restore.

Rang their shrieks from castigations, self-imposed before the fane,  
Through the dim church dome and arches, mingling with the wind's refrain.

And e'en yet the Indians whisper when lights gleam through blinding storms,  
“ 'Tis the spirits doomed to penance—look not on their curséd forms.”



# **Pala**

## *Chapel of San Luis Rey de Francia*

Here is brooding silence broken by the ground quail's  
warning cry,  
When he watches young flock feeding, breast white-  
ringed and proud crest high;

Plain-robed mother, through the sages, speeds her brood  
with cunning feet,  
Then uplifts with whirl pretentious far from safe leaf-  
hid retreat.

Here the flocks of blackbirds rising, whiz upon the  
morning air;  
Far aloft the shy deer listens; to his covert bounds the  
hare;

Here the Pala—Sparkling Water—springs forth with  
immortal birth,  
Down the cañon greedy quicksands drink it from the  
thirsty earth;

And the natives fear to gather roots from near the living  
spring,  
Lest from genii that dwell there curse of drought the  
act should bring.

Here the time-defying olive to the morn its slim leaves  
turns,  
And in colors of the sunset, all its burnished silver  
burns.

Still pomegranates spread their blossoms, strangled by  
the tall weeds rank,  
And the fruited Aztec cacti grow against th' adóbe bank;

Here the princely aloe raises penciled tree-top 'gainst  
the sky,  
Rugged leaves, like faithful subjects, round their monarch  
abject lie.

And the rudest mural paintings decorate the dismal  
hall;  
Wings of bats by cross and chalice; palms beside the  
arrows tall;

One old tarnished copper censer lies upon the gaping  
floor,  
And the few poor churchly treasures wait within yon  
creaking door;

Down this weird barbaric chamber flames the Virgin's  
silver dress,  
As a ray of morn to wand'rers lost in some dim wilderness.

Sometimes now a godly father tells a mass in this rude  
hut;  
Loose the rite on savage natures! dry husk on time-  
hardened nut!

Still their wizard incantations tell they at the mortal  
hour;  
From the priest to wild magician, turn they for the  
healing power.

O'er them stands a belfry tower, winter-stained and  
dark with moss;  
On its crest one bird-brought cactus grows around the  
broken cross.

Lonely ruined tower of Pala! dark with shadows of the  
past!  
Like Death's signet art thou set on shrines which must  
be his at last!

## San Juan Capistrano

Onward from "Las Flores" rancho, following the shore-  
line steep,  
Ten leagues distant from San Luis, 'midst the hills a  
fair vale sleeps;

Here the Coast Range, northward trending, opens in a  
tiny gate,  
Where without, the chafing billows centuries for en-  
trance wait.

Where th' *arroyo*, called "Viejo," finds Trabuco's  
loit'ring stream,  
And as young explorers seek they ocean-world's alluring  
gleam,

Stands the Mission Capistrano in a spot which well  
beguiles  
From th' impassioned sun departing, all his hoarded  
farewell smiles;

Spot which mildest moons illumine, where stars scin-  
tillating rise  
With soft semi-tropic lustre—light unknown to colder  
skies.

In this calm and restful valley stands a shrine to one  
whose head  
Knew no rest, when as Franciscan, poverty and war he  
wed;

He who from the Turks accurséd, strove to tear the  
shrines profaned  
By the touch of infidels, and by the turbaned shadows  
stained;

Who great riches, for the Master, with devoted life laid  
down,  
Grieving he was "deemed unworthy" to receive a  
martyr's crown.

Blend the olive and the orange round his shrine their  
shaded green;  
Tender bloom of gnarled vines, tells boundless wealth  
that once was seen.

And they say that sometimes voices chant within this  
lonely shrine,  
And at midnight spectral tapers round its burning  
crosses shine;

Melt such phantoms at the dawning with the shadows  
from its slope,  
Gleams on it the morning sunlight, but for it no morn-  
ing hope!

Soft 'gainst ocean's hoarse boom falls the hum of hours  
in idle flight,  
As a picture's darker background brings the tender  
shades to light.

Mountain perfumes and sea-odors to a sweet narcotic  
blend,  
And each day with languor ravished, slowly loiters to  
its end;

Till life seems an old man dreaming, and with evening's  
wond'rous glow  
Flash the ruins as old faces gleam with thoughts of long  
ago.

## San Gabriél Arcángel

Veil of the Sierra Madre! sheen of light to tell whose  
gleam,  
Earthly words opaque and dull-hued as a child's clay  
image seem;

Sunbeams pale before the shimmer of the opalescent  
gauze,  
Where the rainbow hue diffuséd, round Sierra Madre  
draws

Veil of glowing iridescence, woven from light's loosened  
rays  
Smit by fine prisms atmospheric in a thousand devious  
ways;

And methinks, when Spanish Fathers named the town  
Los Angeles,  
That the grateful patron angels, loit'ring on the sunlit  
breeze,

Mantles dropped of heav'nly brightness, whose soft  
splendors never fail,  
And they draped the Mother's mountain in their robes  
—this lustrous veil.

Such the light through which Sierra looks towards plain  
of Gabriél;  
Such the air which throbs responsive to its morn or  
evening bell.

Soft bloom, that seems air transmuted, flecks the clus-  
tered grapes with light,  
Deepens on the downy umbels of the gardens, tropic  
bright.

Fair as Aztec princess wears the orange-tree her royal  
 green,  
 Through lace mantle of white blossoms, golden jewels  
 flash their sheen.

Such the place by padres chosen for the patron angel's  
 shrine,  
 Angel of th' Annunciation to the maid of David's line.

Farthest here once Mission farm lands spread o'er hills  
 on every side;  
 Farthest roamed their good herds seeking food from  
 mountain to the tide.

Most the Virgin loved this Mission, to her herald  
 dedicate,  
 Near her vale as "Queen of Angels," where the  
 "Mother's Mountains" wait;

Early she its cause espoused, when before her banner  
 flung  
 Without hands upon the free winds—where a vision  
 bright it hung—

Dusky warriors backward started, smit by grace of  
 godlike mien,  
 As once Romans in a garden, back from face of  
 Nazarene;

And the ones who came to slaughter, stayed strange  
 worship to repeat,  
 Gifts from their poor riches leaving, with their weapons,  
 at her feet.

Long the smile of peace thus given rested on the Mission  
                   young,  
 Till it grew to strength gigantic all its humble sons  
                   among.

“Once the richest of the Missions,” now its desecrated  
                   feet  
 In *puéblo Mejicano* stand 'mid squalor of the street.

Here dwelt she whose oft-told story brings the tear of  
                   sympathy;  
 Who at six score years said sadly, “God must have for-  
                   gotten me;”

Kind to life, but no more loving, when the tardy  
                   messenger  
 Found her, eager to rejoin the swarthy tribes awaiting  
                   her.

Still a few old Indians linger squatting in the blazing  
                   sun,  
 Crooning of the Mission's splendors when *atóle* lacked  
                   for none;

And they tell of Padre Serra, crossing dark brows at  
                   his name,  
 Tales of miracles their fathers told them of his holy  
                   fame;

How once lost upon the mountains came he to Mojave's  
                   plain,  
 Wand'ring with his people till the fever woke in blood  
                   and brain.



And through all the 'wildered journey told he ever way-  
side mass,  
Though with thirst and famine fainting, ne'er without  
it day might pass;

That once from his trembling fingers, fell the cup of  
holy wine,  
And with godless haste the dry ground drank the crim-  
son drops divine;

When lo! from the earth's parched lips, red with the  
stain of Precious Blood,  
Sprang a fountain of pure waters, sweet as Horeb's  
smitten flood;

And when Serra, with thanksgiving, would have done  
some penance still,  
Spake an angel in a vision, "Nay, it was the Master's  
will."

Crossed themselves again the speakers, lapsing to a  
broken dream;  
Passed the Pilgrims seeing dimly, what to these this life  
must seem.

But there lingers through this dark room echo none of  
sweet notes hymned;  
Drear it seems as soul where doubts have faith and hope  
too early dimmed.

Slow upon the numbéd spirit creeps a horror in this  
gloom,  
As if sigh from shrouded sleeper smote one wandering  
in a tomb.

'Midst this gray dusk watches still a group of saints  
on pillars old,  
Faces dull and garments battered, names and sorrows  
long untold.

Stands San Gabríel, the patron, high above the other  
shrines,  
E'en from face of faded statue, still some angel bright-  
ness shines;

He most honored messenger of all that stood before the  
throne,  
When God would, unto His creatures, speak some pur-  
pose of His own.

He th' interpreter of visions to the captive prophet sent;  
He who sat at Eden's portal, whence our ling'ring  
parents went;

Who came to the second Woman to announce the time  
as near,  
When through her th' Avenger promised to the first  
Eve should appear,

Whose high message, "Hail! thou blesséd in divine  
maternity,"  
Lifted to the throne in heaven pains accursed at Eden's  
tree,—

Stands with ample gathered wings, as if he still were  
charged to greet,  
With perpetual song the maid who stands enshrined  
at his feet.

Simple priestess-maid Judean! who should in thy  
humble place

Deify to all the ages mother love and mother grace;

Round this dreary shrine thy roses blossom in the month  
of May;

Light this gloom pale votive tapers, when is kept thy  
festal day;

Then the choir's soft *Incaratus* trembles round thy  
vestal shrine,

As the new hope of the promise fluttered in thy soul  
divine;

And the eve's *Magnificat* breaks forth in glad trium-  
phant tone,

As thy faith received the glory of the promise as thine  
own.

Maid "most pure!" Maid "*gloriosa!*" Woman with a  
loving heart!

Though thyself of mothers saddest, mothers' comforter  
thou art!

Patroness of every virtue! Almoner unto mankind!  
"Queen of men and angels!" in thee, "Lady Merciful,"  
we find!

Pure impersonation of earth's sublimated joy and pain!  
Of that love most 'kin to God's own, stand'st thou  
Mother of the Slain!

Motherhood beatified woke in thy canticle of praise;  
Let the Æons antiphone it, till Time sees the end of  
days!

## San Bernardino

### *Chapel of San Gabriel.*

Long one strays with dreamful fancies that thy heart  
    may whisper low  
Some strong thought for hopeful living from that life  
    of long ago;

But thy desolation palls one with a chill and nameless  
    dread,  
As if faith were shaken in the resurrection of the dead.

## San Fernando Rey de España

Here the mountains burn at sunset, with that light  
     drawn from the skies—  
 Trail of glory drifting backward from the young  
     world's sacrifice —

When the Bactrian high priest called to earth celestial  
     splendors down,  
 And bade mortals worship fire as holy light from  
     Mithra's crown.

In this vale a host angelic floated 'thwart the ebbing  
     day,  
 Sent to point the fathers to a shrine for San Fernando  
     Rey.

Pointed they to distant mountain set in opalescent haze,  
 Where it looked adown the valley through the evening's  
     crimson blaze;

Pointed they, then upward floated, and a cloud around  
     them shone,  
 Soft as smoke of curling incense from the swinging  
     censer thrown.

When the Morn dismissed the night-guard from the  
     border-land of day,  
 Smiled she to behold the fathers far upon their heaven-  
     sent way.

But the gardens which they planted, fairest here of all  
     remain,  
 'Neath the mountain named for royal Ferdinand, the  
     Saint of Spain.

Olive trees still stand gigantic which a hundred years  
     have crowned,  
 Triple avenues defining all the garden's widest bound.

To their peaceful arms presents its thorny breast the  
     cactus tree,  
 And the noble aloes lift their coronets of filigree.

High among the storied olives, saintly palms their  
     heads upraise,  
 And they mingle sighs together for the changed and  
     loveless days;

Grieve they for the glebe unbroken, for the reservoirs  
     long dry,  
 For the aqueducts where sere leaves in the tiny whirl-  
     winds fly;

Grieve they for the life departed, for the ruined church  
     hard by,  
 Where they see its cross no longer outlined 'gainst the  
     cloudless sky.

And the only chant that ever sounds within the dreary  
     pale,  
 Is the fierce, hot wind of summer sweeping down this  
     lonely vale.

## The Christ of San Buena Ventura

Ghastly Christ on rude cross lifted, while behind the  
clear-carved face,  
All the symbols of His sorrow, on the wall your tears  
may trace—

Curséd rods and cruel nails that once were hid in holy  
flesh;  
Crown of thorns and mocking palm-branch; spear that  
drew His life-blood fresh;

Sponge upheld in vile derision; robe of scorn they bade  
Him wear;  
Chalice of the blesséd promise that His life His own  
should share!

Meet the place for requiem masses which in holy week  
are said,  
When the prostrate priest bewails the sorrows of the  
princely Dead;

Round this shrine the *Crucifixus* from the organ's dirge  
floats down,  
Drear as once the noonday darkness fell on Calvary's  
awful crown.

But at festivals returning, Christmas joy or Paschal  
glee,  
Fresh young voices flood the dark nave with their tide  
of minstrelsy;

And the rippling light-waves sparkle 'gainst the Cru-  
cifix' dull gloom,  
Bright as that first Easter sunlight flashed on Joseph's  
garden tomb.

What are names to hearts that love Him! one same hope  
is for us all!

Jesus lay within the dark tomb—grief for Him our  
common pall!

Why the strifes that vex the Master! the same themes  
our tongues employ;

Christ was raised from out the shadows—love for Him  
our common joy.



## Santa Barbara

Here the soft sweet airs distilling seem a necromancer's  
 balm,  
 Wearied soul and body lull they till life seems a dream-  
 ful calm.

Looked the padres on the rich land sloping toward the  
 toiling sea  
 Working waves of molten silver into fine wrought filigree ;  
 Gazing from the Mission hillside, strangers pause to hear  
 a tale  
 Of the ghosts that haunt yon islands with their flam-  
 beaux far and pale :

Phantom skiffs like *tule* shadows, and their rowers tall  
 and stark,  
 Flit with torches 'cross the channel, through the hollow  
 of the dark,

From the Ana Capa to the Santa Cruz' steep jagged  
 shore,  
 And from Santa Rosa backward, through the still night  
 o'er and o'er,—

Back and forward to the mainland, to the Missions white  
 and still,  
 Barbara's and far Ventura's faintly limned against the  
 hills;

Long the rites upon the islands, as if there were celebrate  
 The returning day of burial of some savage potentate ;

And the torchlights white and spectral swept the In-  
 dians' swart lines,  
 Till the shapes seemed ghouls of fable, feasting round  
 some charnel shrines.

\* \* \* \* \*

Built they when the spring-time brightened with star-  
 flowers the rugged slopes;  
 Patron chose—a maid whose spring-time beamed with  
 martyr's star-bright hopes;

And the Mission of their rearing lifts its comely head to-  
 day,  
 Smiling down on resting valley, hills, and town, and  
 sweeping bay.

Round it broken walls are crumbling, which but lend a  
 rougher grace,  
 As a rustic frame which heightens beauty of a pictured  
 face.

Walls of stone from pave to turret, strong as tower on  
 arméd field,  
 Roof of tiles uplift to heaven—tiles the weight of  
 warrior's shield.

Massive towers defend the portal, and the bells still tell  
 their tale:  
 "God and truth go on forever, 'tis the faith of man doth  
 fail."

Ent'ring through a great stone doorway, distant taper  
greet the sight,  
Like a star of promise burning through life's sorrow-  
clouded night.

Dim light from the small high windows, shrouds in gloom  
the outlines, where  
Slow appears a monk Franciscan, kneeling at a shrine of  
prayer ;

Friar in a long gray garment, hooded folds of heavy  
serge,  
At the waist with white cord girdled, heavy knotted as a  
scourge —

Shadow-like he moves to greet us, and the rosary falls  
down  
Where the naked foot in sandal shows beneath the heavy  
gown.

Shows he silver pyx and chalice ; precious thuribles gold-  
lined ;  
Mite of True Cross fondly cherished, by Faith's eyes  
alone defined ;

And old saints that stood dejected, as if from the altar  
cast,  
Round a crucifix as saying, "True our love e'en to the  
last ;"

Crucifix of cunning carving, where a matchless hand has  
shown  
Tale of Olivet's grand passion, with a grace some mas-  
ter's own,—

Such the vivid truth of line, the heart swells with a sudden throe;

Seems Gethsemane's low moan to throb once more through midnight woe;

Seems the cry of Calvary to ring through sounding years again —

Cry wrung from a soul's great anguish which surpassed all fleshly pain.

Mute with thought, through long dim cloisters, grope we to yon spot of day,

As our spirits blindly stumble through earth's doubts toward heavenly ray.

## Santa Ynez

Still upon these cragged slopes the deer feed in the twilight glow,  
While the bear and mountain lion keep at bay the common foe.

Here Madroño, masquerader, makes the shrubby forest gay;  
Hangs the Manzanita shyly, berries bright by mountain way.

On the creeks the plant of Gilead finds the bay's funereal tree;  
Heaven's healing on Death's footstep follows, if we will but see.

Of these hills the herds unconquered, ownership with grizzlies claimed,  
Ruled the bullock o'er the mountain, as some savage prince untamed.

Often here the wild *rodéo* tore the dust from ev'ry hill,  
And the bellowing of cattle made the very tree-tops thrill.

Proud rode forth the brave *vaquero*, horse and rider moved as one,  
Pawed the ground th' impatient mustang, eager for the fray begun.

Dashed they in 'mong fierce bands surging, wild as billows winter-lashed;  
Like white boats o'er waves wind-driven, their sun-bright *sombreros* flashed;

Parting rightward, parting leftward, that each ranch its  
own might gain ;  
Savage bullocks with their wide horns, plowed the trem-  
bling earth in vain ;

For the hissing keen *riatas*' level circles small or great,  
Seized upon the maddened captives, like a fierce pursu-  
ing fate ;

Supple dropped on horns defiant, sinuous caught the  
flying feet ;  
Swayed each rider in his saddle, with a movement bold  
and fleet ;

Backward braced the foaming mustang, rolled the con-  
quered to the ground,  
Helpless 'neath the branding iron, firmly by the skilled  
noose bound.

Gone the wild herds from the mountains ; ride forth few  
*vaqueros* now ;  
Hang the braided lithe *riatas* useless on the saddle-bow ;

For the droves in paltry numbers, tame as barn-yard  
bovines stand,  
In their bondage scare rebelling at the hot iron's servile  
brand.

---

Where the mountain's veil is bluest, like bones bleach-  
ing in the sun  
Lie stark ruins of the work built late ere padres' time  
was done ;

Stands a corridor of arches, turned to greet the rising  
sun;  
One waits for his benediction, when for us his work is  
done.

Through the fathers' stone-paved chambers rings the  
heel's half-shrinking tread,  
Drear as mem'ries through a heart which knows all  
hopes of earth are dead.

Iron doors and cloisters bolted; rusty locks resist the  
hand;  
What is this whose blackness threatens where the barréd  
gateways stand!

Dungeon sunless as the sorrow which its walls have  
echoed back;  
Soldier life and priestly ruling, here have left a certain  
track.

Judge not, by the light we live in, men who wrought in  
greater gloom;  
Leave to Him whose vision reaches from earth's cradle  
to its tomb.

God alone can sift the gleanings which the years have  
gathered in,  
Horrors marked with holy purpose; good, with serpent  
trail of sin.

---

Sweet the story of Our Lady who on Guadalupe's site,  
Showed her pure face to an Indian, late redeemed from  
pagan rite;

While he wandered through the cactus, pondering her  
                   virtues rare,  
 Lo! upon the hill before him, stood her semblance pass-  
                   ing fair;

And she softly spoke unto him, while he sank upon the  
                   earth,  
 "Fear not, son of Montezuma, chosen thou e'en from  
                   thy birth;

"Bear my message to the fathers, that a house they build  
                   me here,  
 And my glory shall rest on it:—Son, depart with heart  
                   of cheer."

And her smile, a radiant blessing, fell upon his spirit's  
                   strife,  
 Soft as sweet dew of the manna feeding with the bread  
                   of life;

Then a darkness smote his dim soul, and a dread doubt  
                   on him fell;  
 Thrice repeated was the vision ere he dared the tale to  
                   tell.

Spake the fathers, gravely doubting, "Lo! the winter  
                   time perceive;  
 Bring us now the Mother's flowers, and thy message  
                   we'll believe."

Went he forth to sunlight darkened, prostrate at his  
                   rocky shrine,  
 When a voice like soft air pulsing, spake in cadences  
                   divine;



Paused the smitten earth to listen, wheeled the birds and  
 hung in air;  
 "Son, behold yon barren rock and thence my sacred  
 roses bear."

When before the bishops his rough *tilma* laid he on the  
 ground,  
 Stood rebuked unto their servant, prelates deep in lore  
 profound;

On the robe of aloe thread, 'neath mystic roses piled as  
 May,  
 Was the Dame of Guadalupe, pictured in a wond'rous  
 way.

Stands to-day an altar where her blessed feet made holy  
 ground,  
 And the homes of Guadalupe throng the Mother's doors  
 around.

## San Luis Obispo de Tolosa

When the fathers passed to southward from Antonio's  
new-made shrine,  
Just within the shelt'ring steeps which bend to skirt the  
sea-coast line,

Full two score of leagues their journey, as the bee his  
pathway grades;  
Many score they wandered blindly in and out 'mong un-  
known glades.

Once within a deep, lone cañon, when night found them  
without bread,  
Came toward them o'er wooded hill-side — shadowed  
glories round his head —

One who led them in sweet converse, and laid bread upon  
their board;  
Found the morn their guest departed, and their hampers  
newly stored.

And a radiant youth oft met them, offering flask of  
grateful wine,  
And they felt its sweet refreshment, knowing not the  
gift divine.

---

On these rugged cliffs to seaward, opened are the graves  
today,  
Where the unbaptized were buried with their vessels  
of coarse clay.

Hence a mountain-crowded cañon reaches inward from  
the sea,  
Till it meets two pointed summits lifting heaven's  
canopy;

Here for Louis of Toulouse they set the bishop's crosier  
down,  
Gave his name to dreamful valley, river, and the moun-  
tain's crown;

He who to the throne of Naples for Christ's love gave  
up his claim;  
Who barefooted, unattended, prelate to Tolosa came.

\* \* \* \* \*

This the corridor historic, by the tales the people tell —  
Be they verity or legend — of strange scenes which here  
befell;

For once paced a sad procession — grieved the morning  
at the sight —  
Bent forms draped in sombre garments, dark against the  
Mission's white.

Bowed heads, with *rebozos* covered, followed where Ra-  
mona led —  
Brave Ramona de Pacheco, lifting proud uncovered head.

Came señoras leading children, from a night of prayer  
and grief,  
Seeking from young Fremont pardon for Don Jesus  
Pico, chief.

To their slow half-smothered footsteps sighed the corri-  
dor's cold stone,  
As they passed with woeful mien, by prayers and weep-  
ing to atone.

As of old came Roman matrons, seeking for their city's  
life,  
At his feet knelt these untiring. Stern the soldier's in-  
ward strife.

Tolled the Mission bells the moments; paced the sentries  
to and fro;  
Flung the sun his bloody banners; still the pleaders  
would not go.

Came the word to stay the sentence: "*Gracias Dios*"  
checked their tears;  
As *alcalde* of the country, lived Don Jesus many years.

---

Gone the plaza and the fountains; Spain's delights for  
aye are fled;  
E'en the square of consecration now receives no more  
the dead;

Gone the neophytes who wondered while the unknown  
God they praised;  
Aliens till their rolling valleys — strangers hold the  
walls they raised.

Where were laid the Mission gardens, the young city's  
streets are led,  
'Midst them apricot or pear tree, lank and sere, lift  
outcast head.

## San Miguél Arcángel

O ye oaks! Ye guardian genii of the broad leagues up  
and down!

Tell us of the scenes ye witnessed or with smile or angry  
frown.

In your tops we hear a murmur; is it thus brave deeds  
are sung?

For the alien suppliants deign to speak in coarser  
human tongue.

Answers not your whispered cadence; is it worship blent  
with sighs?

Droop ye lower o'er the ruin lifted dark against the  
skies?

Hold this truth, O fading shrine! 'tis all that's left to  
light thy day:

'Tis the soul that may illumine e'en wasted lines of dying  
clay.

Awful silence broods around thee, and the noonday hazes  
thrill

With a pulse which seems a mem'ry of the life that now  
is still.

Fare-thee-well! Such desolation seems of Time's own  
death a part;

Leave we thee to dreams and shadows; turn we to the  
world's great heart.

## San Carlos del Carmelo

Pause upon the gentle hillside, view San Carlos by the  
sea,—

'Gainst pale light a shape Morisco wrought in faded  
tapestry.

'Neath Mt. Carmel's brooding shadow, peaceful lies the  
storied pile,

And the white-barred river near it sings a requiem all the  
while.

Why was name, to Christian precious, found within this  
lonely place,

Borne by stream which mirrored only swarthy brow or  
deer's shy grace?

Band of friars Carmelite, came with Viscaino long before,  
*Salves* chanting to their Lady by this far and fabled  
shore;

And their name on stream and mountain brightened all  
the unblest place,

As the mem'ry of a sweet smile lightens up a sombre  
face.

Now remains of many labors by the loyal sons of Spain,  
Not a tropic leaf reminding of the Andalusian plain.

Where were roofs of tiles or thatches, roughest mounds  
mark every side,

And where once the busy court-yard, searching winds  
find crevice wide.

Gone all trace of padres' dwelling, and 'midst ruin yet  
 remains  
 But the church front in its beauty, arabesqued with win-  
 ter stains;

High two Moorish belfry towers lift the sign of Calvary,  
 Tell the deep-worn steps ascending oft their sweet bells  
 woke the sea.

O'er the door a star embrasured tells the tale of Beth-  
 lehem,  
 Far more eloquent to Indian than the priestly apothegm.

See from 'neath the low carved doorway flowers blos-  
 som through the nave,  
 O'er debris from roof and pillars heaped upon the square  
 tiled pave.

Where were altars, wild doves twitter — o'er them drops  
 the roof away;  
 Where burnt type of Real Presence, sunshine streams this  
 many a day.

Softly tread the sanctuary, where the reverend sleepers  
 lie,  
 'Neath the spot where oft they lifted sacrificial Host on  
 high.

Guards them there an earnest priest who deems their  
 shrine a sacred trust —  
 He whose search in musty volumes found what place  
 held Serra's dust.

Yearly here the Indians gather on San Cárlos holy day;  
Sad memorial to the man who would have died for such  
as they.

Weirdly echo their responses for the saint they do not  
know;  
But they know their hopes are broken, and that Serra lies  
below.

And they tremble when they tell you that at midnight  
of that day  
Will arise their buried kindred in a ghostly dumb array;  
Round the ruin in procession with their torches white and  
still,  
Passing through the shadowy doorway from their graves  
beneath the hill;

And that Serra, like a god, although his burial stone  
moves not,  
Will lead them in mass majestic on the drear but hal-  
lowed spot;

With strange aspergill will scatter o'er their forms a  
phantom spray,  
While Crespí will swing the censer through air unpulsed  
by its sway;

And the altar's spectral tapers will gleam on their faces  
white,  
And the Crucifix' soft splendor fill the dark nave with  
its light;



Hoarse will sob the surf responsive, moan the wind in  
     minor strain,  
 Mingling with the faint far echoes, some celestial choir's  
     refrain;

Night winds will not stir the garments of the kneelers on  
     the ground,  
 To the voiceless *Pax Vobiscum*, lips will answer without  
     sound;

And will cross the brows unearthly, hands which leave no  
     shadow there,  
 As the forms and lights phantasmal melt into the mid-  
     night air.

Such the shadow thrown upon the *Campos Santos* 'neath  
     the hill,  
 Where the rulers of the young land many graves un-  
     noticed fill.

At this Mission long dwelt Serra — padre of the padres  
     he;  
 Hence o'er hill and desert went he through his apostolic  
     see.

Thence returning worked he humbly with the Indians  
     while he taught,  
 Bearing burdens as St. Francis when at Damian he  
     wrought.

Showed he, too, by dread example — torches to his flesh  
     applied,  
 Beaten breast with stones and scourges — woes for those  
     who godless died.

Told he mass at shrine most humble, not within the walls  
     we see;  
 'Neath a low, thatched roof uncomely, served he altar  
     ministry.

And when fell upon his brow a shadow from the farther  
     land,  
 Thitherward turned he all gladly, lifting patient, long-  
     ing hand;

Seeing naught 'midst heaven's glories his pure spirit  
     more besought  
 Than a "grander gift of prayer," for poor souls for  
     whom he wrought.

When from self-imposed retreat he came forth to the  
     sacrament,  
 Rung his *Salutaris Hostia*, though his form with weak-  
     ness bent;

Rose his *Tantum Sacramentum* in a tone that mocked all  
     pain,  
 While the voice of priests and kneelers died in tears at  
     the refrain;

Laid he then tired head in rapture on the breast of  
     mother earth —  
 Dumb bequest of his poor body to the heart that gave it  
     birth,—

Chill embrace which he felt not, Faith's glowing robe  
     was round him cast;  
 Proved he true to poverty and to St. Francis to the last.

Bore the waiting ones his spirit, and their anthem's joy-  
ous swell  
Mingled with the notes funereal of the solemn passing  
bell.

And the boom of dreary cannon told above the moaning  
sea  
How the earth had lost a soldier and The Church a  
devotee.

And the angel voices answered that The Church in heaven  
had found  
One whose welcome should re-echo through the welkin's  
farthest bound.

And they laid him by Crespí, the friend whose toils were  
sooner o'er.  
At the feet of Dolorosa and beneath the chancel floor.

Lie their crypts in desolation — sun and storm upon  
them beat;  
Desolation is about them — sun and storm upon them  
beat.

## Santa Cruz

Hail thou Cross of adoration ! was't in Eden thou had'st  
birth,  
When the new-blessed parted waters found the corners of  
the earth !

Mystic sign in far-passed ages, when with bashful hand  
the Morn  
First enwrapped with rosy mantle young Atlantis, ocean-  
born,

Is't by thee that man, an exile, keeps sad mem'ry of that  
land ?  
Or was't thou God's pledge of peace, when Eve bewailed  
her lifted hand ?

Thou e'er deemed by God-taught sages, emblem of some  
strange new life,  
Since man first on record tablets wrought his faith with  
cunning knife ;

Borne by sculptured gods and monarchs, carved on tem-  
ple, shaft and urn,—  
Thou was't old when Egypt found thee ; Persia young, of  
thee would learn.

Bars of death most ignominious, when disgrace was  
heaped on crime ;  
The accretion of man's venom gathered from the crypts  
of time.

Man's first promise to the future, in which life and death  
types meet ;  
Heritage of all the ages when ye lay at Jesus' feet.

Hail thou sign of life immortal! symbol of a death profane!

Waited'st thou MESSIAH — CHRIST-MAN, to unite thy meanings twain!

## The Last Sermon of Fray Junípero Serra

"O, brothers grieve not that the old gives place to new,  
That the present's rushing purpose to the past forgets  
its due;

"God endures to see the lily drop its petals one by one:  
Shall not we abide the death of that whose work for earth  
is done?

"Gone our Missions' life midst conflicts, but the truth  
we sought to tell  
Shall resist the strife of ages, for with God its might  
doth dwell;

"Truth of God's great love to mortals shown in Type of  
holy life,  
Whose humility majestic should rebuke man's pride of  
strife.

"Doubt not that such love shall conquer though some  
faith-built altars fall,  
That the sacrifice was perfect, made but once and made  
for all.

"By the holy saints and martyrs whose great lives shall  
burn sublime,  
Heaven-set torches ever flaming down the corridors of  
time;

"By His Mother's seven sorrows; by the twelve stars  
on her brow;  
By her present adoration, in which e'en the seraphs  
bow;

“By His holy incarnation; by that Power which healed  
all pain;  
By the Hand that burst the tomb when once came forth  
the mighty Slain;

“By the glorious Presence Real,—the Eucharist’s grand  
mystery,  
Doubt not that the love shall triumph sealed with blood  
on Calvary.

“He who makes man’s fury praise Him, the remainder  
shall restrain;  
On wrath’s ruin, temple nobler shall uplift its fair do-  
main,—

“Temple grand enough to gather all the faithful of all  
time;  
Then shall *Jubilate Deo* blend in tongues of every clime.

“If we know not such proportions, see our measuring  
line too small;  
Be sure God’s love spans the millions as His sun shines  
over all.

“Then grieve not at altars broken, or at mould on cher-  
ished shrine.  
God is greater than the ages! Truth is as His life —  
divine!”

And the Holy Cross in blessing lifted o’er their bowéd  
heads  
Was in substance as the lustre which heaven’s open por-  
tal sheds;

'Neath its soft suffuséd glory, blent their outlines with  
pure light,  
As at the Transfiguration heavenly forms were lost from  
sight.





**Francisca Reina, or  
Songs and Ballads of the Great Fire  
in San Francisco  
April, 1906**

**[ "*Francisca Reina* ": *Richard G. Badger*  
*Boston, 1908* ]**

*The horror which surpassed all telling;  
The memories still welling, welling,  
— Exhaustless fountain of our pain —  
Let us forget.*

*The nights that made us gray ere mornings,  
The desolation of those dawns,  
Whose like, no suns of fire-red stain  
Had seen before nor may again,  
Let us forget.*

*The losses which have made us brothers;  
The sufferings, our own and others',  
The wrecking of a life's long toil,  
Let us forget.*

*Lest we grow hard and unforgiving,  
Lest we lose that great joy of living —  
The might to wrest from out the soil  
The wealth that is our rightful spoil —  
Let us forget.*

*Lest we get low and weary-hearted  
Thinking of old and new thus parted  
— A gulf whose bridge is hope alone —  
Let us forget.*

*Let us look onward to the morrows;  
As monuments o'er buried sorrows  
Piling the best the world has known  
Of iron strength and carven stone,  
Let us forget.  
Lord God! Help us forget.*

## Francisca Reina

A stricken queen, but still a queen of queens,  
She sat upon the sloping of her hills  
Where wreck and fire had danced the dance of death.

Her forehead bowed upon her knees she sat,  
An instant stunned by her transcendant woe.  
The smoke still burnt her eyelids, and her throat  
Quivered with pungent acids of the flame.  
The acrid vapors of the steaming muck  
Were in her nostrils, and her slackened breath  
Was spent through ashes on her bleeding lips.

A while all paralyzed, then slow her head  
Upraised. Her eyes were dim. She saw through mists  
The vista of her hills all gray and still.  
When would they laugh again? Ten thousand homes  
Had burnt their hearthstones into monuments  
For her as dead. That cup unveiled she saw  
Which fate has ready for the desolate,  
The black wine of despair each hour new pressed  
From envy of the nether gods. This cup,  
Scorned lightly in her pride, he thrust at her  
With coward jeers: "Drink, drink, thou boastful dame.  
Dost mock it now? There's nothing more for thee."  
One glance! The vision came! Her spirit's light  
Broke forth in aureole about her head —  
Glory immortal of a risen soul.  
Upright she stood. Hot cinders burnt her feet —  
She knew it not. With fingers tense, the cup  
She seized and, like one born to her own house,  
That black wine of despair she tossed aloft  
Upon the embers and the blistering rocks.

“ ’Tis not for me, a queen, this dastard draught.  
 For lo! They come — my children from the sea  
 Of fire — each man a king. Their garments smoke.  
 Their brows deep seamed, but bright with hope. Their  
     eyes  
 Are brave, their faces set to conquer death.  
 My sons! My sons!” With touch of its old joy  
 Her voice rang out among the blackened tombs.  
 “Come near, ye bruised ones. Unflinching hearts,  
 Together make we sacrificial vows  
 With orisons unto the rising sun.”

## Francisca Dolorosa

Fore-doomed the horror of the age to bear,  
 By Fate hand-gripped, we went forth from our homes.  
 From mornings to the ending days we fared,  
 And from three midnights to their dawns again  
 From place to place; the while, a demon crazed,  
 Destruction followed in a pact with Death.  
 And yet a song was on our lips. We smiled  
 Into each other's eyes in comradeship.  
 The great heart of humanity awoke  
 With throbs which stilled the consciousness of self.

And we went forth to night that was as day,  
 To day that was as night, for time was not.  
 The parrot clinging to his master's sleeve  
 Forgot his chattering. The songless birds  
 Shivered upon the perch. Dumb creatures' eyes  
 Were pleading unto us. Go forth! Whither?  
 To pavements choked with people dazed by shock,  
 Smoke-strangled, bent beneath their burdened backs,  
 Half dumb and goblin-like in flame-lit smoke;  
 Streets harsh with scrapings of a hasty flight,  
 Ashriek with dragging things that blocked our feet.  
 The mountains called and from the docks the cry,  
 "This way for life! To save your life, this way."  
 For hours, the sea, far out, had roared its pain.

But, now, the bay, unmindful of the wounds  
 Of Mother Earth, said, "Come, I know a shore  
 Of rest:" and thousands followed it to peace,  
 On waves resplendent in a world of fire,—  
 The light from an Immortal's flaming nest.

We smelled the smoke of things revered. Our mouths  
 Were bitter with the char of household gods.  
 We trod the cinders from the city's heart,  
 Our city, loved as hearthstones are. Whither?  
 The parks! A woman's cry. There stood strong men  
 Shoulder to shoulder, their broad backs a wall  
 Around one stricken ere her time, her bed  
 The street. Aye, aye, men's backs a hasty wall  
 To guard that moment holy, from the crowd.  
 Instinct of manhood unto motherhood,—  
 O God! The glory and the pain of it!  
 The gentleness of those rough hands which bore  
 To sheltering that prostrate form! O face  
 Newborn, adust with ashes of its home!

Whither? Unto the hills still green with spring?  
 The slender fingers of a jewelled dame  
 Spread out her fluffy down in silken sheath,  
 Beneath the forehead of a negro child.  
 Her store of dainties hasty seized, she brake  
 As bread unto God's homeless multitude;  
 And seemed it to increase, as did the loaves  
 Of Him who fed the crowds in Galilee.

While tongues of dogs unknown licked up the crumbs  
 From off our hands in brotherhood of woe.

The millionaire's swift motor-car became  
 A thing of life, the while the man's own hands  
 Were black with gathering waifs and strays. This car  
 Was God's fleet messenger unto the maimed.  
 It flew filled with sweet faces of the nuns  
 To minister beside the narrow cot;  
 With the red crosses of the brotherhood

Aglow, it flew unto the service field  
 Of skill and love; then black with priestly robes  
 Which held within the sacred vest the sealed  
*Viaticum* to cheer the way to death.  
 Piled with the fallen and the halt it flew;  
 Then comfort-nigh for hungry, shivering forms.  
 This pleasure-thing, built for the rich man's toy!

And thus unto the sand dunes and the tides  
 We fled, alone or in some brother's care;  
 And that red glare beat on us yet for days,  
 Till hearts grew strong with giving others cheer.

No strangers then! All races were akin  
 By God's one fatherhood to all. A man  
 Was but a man unto a man. Enough!  
 One brand of pain was on us all. I knew  
 My sister by the grime upon her hands.  
 My mother! Was not she that babbling one  
 Who tottered from the doorway of her shack  
 With smoking garments, prone upon my feet?  
 Not mine? Those children dragging at my skirts?  
 My brother from the hill of palaces,  
 His softened features gray with cinder dust  
 Of mansions, now forgetting his own loss,  
 Tender as to the firstborn of his house,—  
 He wraps within his coat of sable warmth  
 The sleeping child he found upon the street.  
 The holy joy of such a fellowship!  
 The angels must have wept and worshipped God.

Thou city of our hearts! With that first rage  
 Of passion primitive we loved, we loved,  
 Yet helpless saw thee struggle, gasp and fall.



What meant the song upon our lips? The uplift  
 Of shock? The nervous power of pain supreme?  
 Nay, nay! The angel hands were blinding us,  
 Lest knowing we go mad before the chrism  
 Of hope, their fingers touched upon our eyes.  
 The solemn joy of newborn faith in life,  
 And faith born of catastrophe is strength.  
 Extremity like thine revealed to us  
 That thou wert of God's plan unto the world  
 To civilize. We saw that thou must rise  
 In evolution of His purposes  
 From thy baptism of fire to higher life.  
 Thus meant the song unconscious on our lips;  
 A Resurrexit in a Requiem Chant.

## Francisca Madre

*New Year, 1907*

What cheer, Francisco Madre, what of cheer  
 For this, the world's expectant year?  
 Struggles uncanny hast thou now  
 While still upon thy cheek the tear.  
 The laborer's sweat is on thy brow;  
 Thy hands have changed the timbrels for the spade;  
 Thy feet that danced go firm and unafraid.  
 With front of light thou farest to and fro  
 Among a city full  
 Of wrecks, each stone a shrine to memory dear,  
 When smites all ruthlessly upon thy face  
 The crime of blood, while from thy noble place  
 Greed's hookéd fingers reach to thy disgrace.  
 With such unnatural foe  
 Thy courage is more pitiful  
 Than thy first woe.

O life that riots in the Western breast!  
 Despair it knows not, no, nor rest,  
 But in Fate's challenge finds its best.  
 Through all the pulses of thy throbbing mart,  
 It thrills thee, city of the bleeding heart;  
 Thrills thee with promise of the coming year.

Francisca of our love, what cheer?  
 On every side we hear  
 The hammer and the chisel ply,  
 And creaking of the wains that thrust us by.  
 The carven stone had been thy creed,  
 But to thy children's sudden need  
 Thou offerest with averted eye

A sheath of iron and wood;  
 They answer through a stifled cry,  
 "Yea, mother, this is good!"  
 And pledge thee for a glad New Year.

Francisca, watcher of the night, what cheer?  
 By day, thou paintest in the future's glow,  
 The fair dream city which the world shall know.  
 But when thou gazest through the chill  
 Of night from hill to blackened hill,  
 Travail of tasks gigantic must o'erfill  
 Thy soul. 'Tis then thou shudderest with the pain  
 Of Memory and Hope in mortal strain.  
 But Hope, the strong twin-sister of the Dawn,  
 Forever young, smiles with each rising sun  
 Upon the yet wreck-jaggéd slopes, and lo!  
 The broken hearthstones flush in rosy glow,  
 Above new homes that nestle at thy feet,  
 Like the swift-lighted gulls of gray. And thou,  
 Dear mother, liftest thy rejoicing brow,  
 As the fleet-footed moments run,  
 Foreshadowed splendors of the year to greet.

Thou hast rich welcome for the hovering Year  
 That poises on thy threshold half in fear.  
 There's a cheer, Francisca Madre, **THERE IS CHEER.**

## Francisca's Thanksgiving

When the hordes of barbarian Persians  
 Laid the beauty of Athens in waste,  
 With her sons came their women and children  
 Making vows to the gods, and in haste  
 Bearing stones for the walls and the turrets,  
 Till a city arose at whose shrine  
 The centuries kneeled in unlading  
 Their argosies' purple and wine.  
 Then Æschylus, reading his vision,  
 Sang the song of the city's new morn;  
 Myron felt for the soul of the marble  
 Which in Phidias later was born.

By a power more dread than an army  
 Destruction has come to our gates,  
 And it struck with a terror and blindness  
 Which tossed us like toys of the Fates.  
 But give thanks that man's greatest is left us,  
 The strength and the courage to do,  
 A purpose as grim as our fathers'  
 Who builded good cities and true.  
 Give thanks for the grain's golden harvest,  
 Sun-garner of wind-rippled fields;  
 For the opened storehouse of the mountains  
 Where each year its new treasure up-yields.

True children of Argonauts are we,  
 And our struggles to theirs are akin;  
 Though the trials be hosts like the Persians,  
 An Athenian valor shall win.  
 Then Art shall rise from the ashes,  
 An immortal unhurt by her scars;  
 And a voice shall be heard in the ruins

With a song that shall quicken the stars.  
As with vows, the builders of Athens  
Made a shrine of each wall they upraised,  
So may we make our city a temple  
To the God whom our fathers have praised.

Then spread we the feast of Thanksgiving  
With a hymn for the days of old;  
Cheers shall ring for the arduous Present  
And the triumphs the Future shall hold.

## How We Went Out

She wore five skirts, he wore two hats,  
 He led the dog, she carried cats;  
 A blanket, soldierwise, about  
 Each waist was coiled, they both were stout.  
 He had a bundle on his back  
 And dragged a trunk along the track.  
 She bore a hat box and a grip;  
 The squirming kittens made her trip,  
 Those catlings yowled beneath her weight;  
 He picked her up and swore at Fate.  
 In baleful glare of reddish light,  
 They knew not were it day or night—  
 They plodded towards the Golden Gate,  
 Then sat upon their trunk to wait.  
 Was this the end, or should they go  
 Still farther to the "Westward Ho!"  
 They found a waif fast strapped on skates  
 Crying by the Presidio gates;  
 He'd lost his pa and on his head,  
 Top-heavy, bore the family bed.  
 She cheered him with a mother squeeze,  
 And fed him of the bread and cheese,  
 With other pets around their knees.

The flames had reached a hotel dome!  
 A lady rich in mines of Nome  
 Rushed down the stairs to find the street,  
 Rolling her packs before her feet.  
 Her latest hat she had assumed  
 To save its owlet, newly plumed.  
 A skirt above her *robe de nuit*  
 Was all the dress that one could see;  
 Her Paris gowns of great expense  
 Were not just then in evidence

Save by a cuff or bit of lace  
 Exuding from a pillow case.  
 She dragged her bundles in this plight,  
 Half consciously she felt them light,—  
 One backward glance! A wretched wrack  
 Of nameless garments marked her track.  
 A rubber bag—the long-necked kind—  
 Was crawling like a worm behind.  
 A passer cried—or was it craze?—  
 “Madam, your hat is all ablaze.”  
 She dashed it down upon the pave,  
 That bird must go her life to save.  
 One back despairing look she cast,  
 The sight will haunt her to the last,—  
 That owl’s glass eyes in vengeful ire  
 Glared at her from a wreath of fire.

A forty-niner, camped in town,  
 Had watched the city burning down;  
 The dignity of one tiled hat  
 He’d reached through suffering, and that  
 To save, he’d make a sacrifice,  
 And so he wore it; awful price!  
 An outgrown baby cart he found,  
 And started prospecting new ground,  
 Unconsciously he took the word  
 Of time’s old slogan, long unheard  
 Since he went broke upon the Trust;  
 “Pardner, we’ll make Twin Peaks or bust.”

A house by hotel-swelldom kept:  
 Italian virtuosos slept  
 Far up and dreamed of Italy,  
 Vendettas of dear Sicily,

Vesuvius and her latest tricks,—  
 When suddenly the rattling bricks  
 Made nightmare of the passing dream;  
 Vesuvius, still the latest theme,  
 Came first to mind, as down the stair  
 They rushed upon the facing square.  
 Cried one with vast dramatic air,  
 Arms waving wildly in despair,  
 "O thou, Vesuvius, my own!  
 A shake like this thou ne'er hast known!  
 Why did I leave my mountain thus?  
 Heart of my heart, Vesuvius!  
 Oh, give me my Vesuvius!"  
 This tragic artist wore the while  
 Pajamas of the latest style.  
 What man, think you, it was would do so?  
 His name? The rhyme demands Caruso!

In garments anything but fresh,  
 She rolled in amplitude of flesh  
 From one to other of her brood,  
 Asweat with love and packing food.  
 "Here, Jakey, come and lif dis pile;  
 Don't go yourself away a mile,  
 Stay wid your pa and help to pull  
 Dat trunk, for it is plenty full.

"Here, Bruder Abe, you're high and strong  
 To push your gran'pa's chair along.  
 Now go him slow or you make wrong.  
 Vere's Zolomons? Vot for you vait?  
 I tells you keep dat puggy straight.  
 Der papy! She is pack inside;  
 Now give your little sister ride.



Don't look aroun', but mind your feet.  
How much times must I tole you so?  
You mischief poy, now dare she go!  
You spills mine papy in der street!"

"O God of Israel!" groaned the sire,  
"Found Father Abram once a fire?  
Had Yacob in der vilderniss  
Pulled ever such a load like this?"  
From puffy pores the sweat oozed out,  
For he was greasy, short, and stout.

"You look just like those pack mules, Jim,  
When we came down from Washbowl Rim:"  
The grips were strapped all over him.  
"All right, my girl, you can't say much  
About appearances and such;  
Give me another pack before  
I wedge you through the big front door.  
You are so trussed up with these things  
You cannot spread your angel wings,  
But you're an angel and dead game;  
Let's hit the trail in search of fame."  
"O! hush, you boy, it is a crime  
To joke at such an awful time.  
Our home! How can we let it go!  
Here Eddy died—O Jim, you know——"  
"Don't cry, old girl; if I break up  
I might collapse that painted cup.  
The mines at Washbowl still are rich;  
Oh, luck, we'll get the diamond hitch."  
Whence but from guardian angel's power  
Come cheer and courage in such hour!

Giuseppe swore this was not Rome;  
 He sweat, he wept, and thought of home  
 On Tiber's bank, but quite forgot  
 That sometimes there the meals were not  
 As frequent as the classic shade.  
 Nor was the bundle he had made  
 At leaving Rome too great to bear.  
 Of goods to-day, if he'd been there,  
 How easy he'd have dragged his share.

He met the barber, old François:  
 They lauded, in their two patois,  
 The beauties of the old countrie,  
 But chose to burn and still be free.

"Now, Biddy, give yourself a hunch  
 And get the childer in a bunch,  
 The soldier orthers us to go."  
 Now Biddies argue well, you know,  
 And Paddy had a bad half hour  
 Explaining military power;  
 And not until appeared once more  
 A gun which seemed to fill the door,  
 Its dreaded threat would she obey;  
 "O Pat, begorra is the day  
 I left ould Ireland for you,  
 As granny said, i'faith 'tis throe."

When she begun, it was a whirl,  
 She loaded down each boy and girl;  
 Hitched up to go-carts full of duds,  
 They pulled and frisked like Shetland studs.

She harnessed Pat to homemade fills,  
 And pushed behind to cross the hills.  
 "And is't to lave the dare ould place!"  
 She cried. "O Mary, full of grace!  
 Mother o'God, look down the day!  
 Pat, mind the childer,"—and away  
 Within the church's toppling door  
 One precious moment on the floor  
 She told her beads with *Aves* o'er.  
 That church, fire-doomed! Her prayer its last!  
 O faith God-blest for ages past!

An auto piled with silken puffs  
 And glittering Oriental stuffs  
 Drove down upon the sand, wave-damp,  
 Seeking in haste a midnight camp.

A group of Chinamen was near,  
 Each man an Oriental seer,  
 Calm in his fatalistic cheer.  
 With rice-bag parcels banked around,  
 They stood or squatted on the ground.  
 Quick spoke the leader of the crew,  
 "My boys! you like they helpee you?"  
 "Thanks, John, these ladies are so cold;"  
 The stranger said, and offered gold;  
 "Me helpee you, no likee pay;  
 Me alle same white man to-day."  
 Then with deft, long-fingered hands,  
 They improvised upon the sands  
 A tent of Persian prayer-cloths made  
 With priceless rugs for carpet laid;  
 A couch of fluffy pillows piled,  
 Those heads to doubtful rest beguiled.

When morning dawned, red-flushed but chill,  
Pulses were slow and voices still;  
Within the tent all cheer had died;  
A squeaky treble piped outside,  
"Madam, she likee bowl of rice?  
I think she find him belly nice."  
Fluffy and white each kernel stood,  
A thing alone, a steaming food,  
Cooked by this wrinkled Chinaman,  
Cooked as Celestials only can.  
The native dames were unsurprised,  
The Eastern ladies recognized  
A yellow angel, but disguised.

## Francisca Diligente

*May to August, 1906*

No more "Indifferent to Fate  
 She sits beside the Golden Gate;"  
 But casts about with watchful eyes  
 If Diligence perchance surprise  
 Some wandering relief supplies;  
 We thought we had no public squares,  
 But she has found them everywhere;  
 They showed up quick with army tents  
 And shacks and cooking implements;  
 While from a bread line improvised  
 Good things she duly authorized,  
 With life no longer simplified  
 To coffee and a bacon side.  
 She mothers well these refuge camps;  
 And watches all the flickering lamps.

South Market Street in peace abides  
 Indefinite upon the sides  
 Of hilly parks whose sacred green  
 Had never such despoiling seen.  
 In vain the neighbors may protest  
 That this continuance is no jest,  
 For mighty ones serenely say,  
 "These camper folk have come to stay;"  
 While vicious wags, "Ah, ha! The boats  
 Political are steered by votes!"  
 She gives them tent-schools every day;  
 The bands for them on Sunday play;  
 Sermons and hymns, each to his mind,  
 Assorted here the pious find.

A *table d'hôte* she has essayed  
 Beneath the park trees' ready shade;  
 Till those who toil for bread and cheese  
 Have sometimes envied refugees.  
 Who would attack a pile of brick  
 When soup was waiting hot and thick?  
 Who likes the mortar-laden breeze  
 While seats are empty under trees?  
 And yet, her naughty children cried:  
 "O Ma, such eggs! They ain't half fried."  
 Hear that, ye hapless ones who pay  
 And humbly take what comes your way.  
 Ingratitude was such surprise  
 That poor Francisca wiped her eyes,  
 And thought of her reduced supplies;  
 Not being learned in landlord lore  
 Of showing grumblers to the door.

Far from indifferent, of late  
 She oftentimes consults with Fate  
 In watchings round the Golden Gate.

# The Simple Life—on Sidewalks

*April, 1906*

A lady, dainty, young, and fair,  
 Was cooking in the open air;  
 She wore a sweater for a waist,  
 Her Easter hat her head begraced,  
 Her husband—also with a hat,  
 A silken tile—demurely sat  
 Coatless upon the curb; his feet  
 Adorned the gutter of the street.  
 Their stove was but a pile of bricks,  
 Flung down by recent chimney tricks  
 Of taking headers through the air;  
 These were a honeymooning pair  
 And found first housekeeping no joke;  
 Her eyes were streaming with the smoke,  
 The while the sputtering ham she fried;  
 The chips he diligently plied  
 To flames that blew four ways at once;  
 He softly swore he was a dunce  
 Who never built a stove before;  
 “My love,” he cried, “it needs a door.”  
 And then a moment all went well,  
 While west winds had a lucid spell;  
 “Now hurry, Jack, while things are hot;  
 You take the pot,  
 I’ve got the pans. There come patrols,  
 You’d best stamp out those burning coals.”  
 Then up the front steps they’d run,  
 Laughing as if such life were fun.  
 The life indoors was simpler still,  
 And all day long a midnight chill  
 Wrapped her like hydropathic sheet;  
 She went outdoors to warm her feet;

No spark upon the hearthstone cheered,  
 For if a curl of smoke appeared,  
 A bayonet six feet long or more  
 Came flashing through the opened door.  
 And water was a luxury rare  
 To be conserved with greatest care,  
 For when Jack brought it from afar,  
 Where things escaped the recent jar,  
 To heat it for her selfish use  
 Was of his kindness an abuse.  
 The evenings were in simple life  
 Devoid of interesting strife.  
 If through the streets they took a turn,  
 Because indoors no lights could burn,  
 The omnipresent khakis said,  
 "'Tis time good folks were all in bed;''  
 The simple life at night was dark,  
 For if escaped one little spark  
 From hidden candle after eight,  
 There came a rattling at the gate,—  
 "Put out that light!" a stern voice cried.  
 "All right," he amiably replied.  
 He tried to imitate the mouse,  
 But tumbled things about the house  
 Till echoes rang, for every chair  
 Seemed placed just right to make him swear.  
 Against the door he bumped his head,  
 Then tumbled crossways into bed.  
 It was a morning's task to find  
 The garments he had cast behind.



You teachers, try this simple life  
You call "devoid of nervous strife."  
See how you feel the soul's spent wings  
Flutter amid such simple things.  
See how the dross, by spirit fire  
Is sublimated from desire,—  
That lust for comfort of the flesh;  
Mark me, you'll know yourselves afresh.  
This gleeful couple did their best  
To jollify the long-drawn test;  
But daily trial recognized  
— By moonlight they philosophized —  
That life somewhat more civilized  
Was worth the burdens it disguised.

## The Simple Life—in Tents

Ten thousand khaki tents or more,  
The parks' green hillsides scattered o'er,  
To the idealist might seem  
Idyllic as a shepherd's dream.  
As landscape gardening, they're not bad;  
Worse picnic places may be had;  
As summer camps a month or more  
One may endure the flapping door  
And drafts that sweep across the floor;  
The dust and odors in the clothes  
To tent flaps pinned in swinging rows;  
Wall shadows cast by careless lamps  
Betraying secrets to the camps:  
As habitations to endure  
They should be studied for a cure.  
The simple life in them pursued  
Proves both disquieting and crude;  
That which in art is picturesque,  
For living proves a coarse burlesque.

## The Simple Life—in Clubs

*April, 1906*

From various junketings with fate  
Six club men sat in dreary state;  
Millions they'd lost, each man a few,  
A few were left to start anew.  
"No hard-luck stories, now, you boys."  
Each man was gray. "Let's tell our joys."  
A deep voice growled, "My throat's so dry,  
There's one old joy I'd like to try.  
You see those tumblers upside down,  
And not a lemon in the town?"  
He groaned at such unnatural woe  
Who'd seen unmoved his millions go.  
One sufferer bounded from his seat,  
Flew down the stairs as light and fleet  
As wings of youth were on his feet.

For this hour saved from fire and shock,  
An office stood upon the dock.  
A man of venerable mien  
Writing alone could there be seen;  
And thither came our millionaire,  
Familiar and most debonair.  
"Say, Mac, those fellows at the club!  
You know they've had an awful rub."

Behind his spectacles' gold rim,  
Relaxed a bit Mac's visage grim;  
These words appealed right up to him.  
The office door he gently locked,  
His visitor seemed nothing shocked.  
Respectable and quite correct  
A safe stood there; who would suspect

That comfort, contraband, could hide  
 Within its little black inside?  
 From double depths all cool and dark  
 That host drew forth a glinting spark,  
 The which his eager guest received  
 As writ of life to the reprieved.  
 "Come here, you love," he softly cried,  
 "My coat's got loose enough to hide  
 A dozen such. Let's take a ride."  
 Then forth upon the dock they walked,  
 These Innocents at home, and talked  
 With manners grave and dignified,  
 How life must be more simplified;  
 On reconstruction well discoursed,  
 That forces must be reinforced,  
 Until they reached the auto, where  
 The cops passed by with guiltless air.  
 Mac whispered then, "Now speed that road  
 As if you had a red-cross load."  
 What general or potentate  
 Triumphant from the field or state,  
 Could with this hero be compared,  
 This dear old swell who loved and dared?

And when he set that bottle down,  
 Those clubmen seized the Bourbon crown  
 As rebels often had before.  
 The hero was ordained to pour  
 Into each glass the precious store.  
 Reverent they watched the sacred rite,  
 Then held their crystals to the light,  
 And how they read its golden glow,  
 'Tis the elect alone can know.  
 They passed the nectar to and fro

Beneath each expert nostril's play—  
Delicious test of its bouquet;  
So lovers revel in delay.  
And then a solemn moment fell—  
Each glass was drained, its dainty well  
A heaven no futile pen may tell.

The cork they toasted to the cheer,  
And hung it on the chandelier;  
Beribboned there it swings, the first  
To break the record of the thirst.

## The Reason Why

Up and down the face of Telegraph Hill  
While our city was swept by flames,  
An Italian tore, and he prayed and he swore,  
And he called all his saints by name.

When, deaf or afar, they answered him not,  
He dissolved into filial tears;  
In the red-black sky still the pyre blazed high  
Of the city he'd loved for years.

Then a sudden thought lit his swarthy face,  
"The Patron! St. Francis, the blest!"  
In relief from despair, he plunged down the long stair  
To his house with its relic chest.

Quoth he, as a banner of silk he unfurled,  
"This is Francis Assisi's hour;  
A saint of such fame must defend his name,  
Our homes he must save by his power."

That banner he waved that Assisi might see,  
But still the flames rolled on;  
"O Francis! behold the folk and the gold!"  
But by morning the city was gone.

All night he had borne St. Francis on high  
From each point of that rampart-wall.  
"What's the use of a saint!" With his blasphemous plaint  
He collapsed, Assisi and all.

Next day, quite limp from the shock to his faith,  
That banner he found where it lay  
On a roof, with the face staring up in disgrace,  
Half buried in ashes of gray.



# Tunes of War

[*From "Francisca Reina and Other Poems":*  
*A. M. Robertson, San Francisco*  
1912]





## The Salute of the "Immortalité"

(*Manila Bay, August 12, 1898.*)

The coming dawn flung out her pennants grey  
Above Manila, where, like baffled tigers hid,  
Lay crouched the war ships of the children of the Cid,  
While Dewey's fleet held Europe's wolves at bay.

The morning, with her sudden orient hand,  
A shower of sunbursts cast where brooding seas  
Crooned softly to the shore.  
The waiting land  
Looked up in dread if yet the breeze  
Were laden with the war-blasts roar;  
Looked toward our fleet of spars  
With stripes of fire sun-trimmed and burning stars.  
The arméd silence of our flag defiance hurled,  
Where from the Olympia's peak its bannered fold,  
Unbound upon aerial waves of gold,  
Flung out its daring message to the world,—  
Our final word, the lifted rod of power.  
O Spain! hast thou the prescience of thy fateful hour?

These tides upbore the English prow of steel;  
Far off the scowling Kaiser turned his keel;  
Mikado's sun flushed red before the Russian's frown,  
While they whose sires had scoffed at Louis' ancient  
dower  
In haste before the Czar bent down.

Still hunt of kings upon Manila's bay!  
A muffled danger breathed upon the main.  
Ready to spring our ocean bloodhounds lay.  
The Lion! Did he proclaim a strange or friendly land

When toward Cavite swept his proud command?  
 The Nations' sentries jostled in the strain.  
 Agast the Eagle and the Bear that day!

From out the British prow in open view  
 The Immortalité came forth alone—  
 The Lion's flag-ship by its legends known,  
 Two crosses blazed upon a field of blue;  
 With storied symbol of its power unfurled,  
 Our ships it faced in presence of a world.  
 O crucial hour! Was the Olympia now to meet  
 The standard of a hostile or a friendly fleet?

Britannia's ship with signal flags bedight,  
 Passed down our opened lines.  
 At full salute, she toward our flag-ship swung  
 Before the array of royal battle signs.  
 Agape and hushed, the nations at the sight!  
 Then from the English deck out-rung  
 Our country's anthem, which the winds bore wide  
 To jealous kings across the listening tide.  
 Ye lands, upon the eve of battle stayed,  
 Under all Europe's hungry guns  
 It was our own Star Spangled Banner flung  
 A-breeze by Briton's sons,  
 Beneath Saints George and Andrew's shade:  
 Her child-republic's place acknowledged to the world  
 On this portentous day by Albion's flag unfurled.

Outbursting from those flag-ships twain, a cry  
 Woke all the dreaming hazes in reply.  
 With brow uncovered our Commander stood  
 Beneath Old Glory's loosened fold,  
 Amidst his staff of loyal brotherhood.

Then from the Olympia burst that pæan loved of old,  
 "God Save the Queen." No men that bide  
 Upon the seas have ever poured a nation's pride  
 Through brazen horns so triumph filled  
 As those glad trumpets which that day out cast  
 A mother's hymn beneath a daughter's mast.  
 The watching squadrons with forebodings thrilled.

Across the waves the stormy Prussian frowned;  
 Looked forth the crouching Bear,  
 Scowling at him whose flowery islands rise  
 Where Fujiyama's snows are ever fair.  
 And they of France, in dumb surprise  
 They looked for him, the man they found  
 When Dewey's flag above Manila's gate  
 Untangled yet another knot of fate.

O England! 'tis for deeds like this, to thee  
 Our hearts are turned. Across the wrathful years  
 Thy offered hand: the rancor and the tears  
 Forgotten in the blessing which shall be  
 When side by side those brother flags are furled,  
 Till Anglo-Saxon peace shall lead the world.

**Dewey in Waiting**

*(Manila, May 1-August 13, 1898.)*

God of our fathers! guard his ways  
Who bore the strain through many days;  
Who held within a single hand  
The honor of his native land;  
Whose ward ceased not with tropic light,  
Whose thoughts engarrisoned the night,  
Whose vigilance forestalled the dawn  
And still patrolled each unknown morn;  
Who stood alone and unafraid,  
And the aggressive nations stayed  
With tact more potent than the might  
That took an empire in a night.  
What but the hollow of Thy hand  
O'ershadowed him in that far land,  
When error meant a name defamed,  
Imperiled cause, a country shamed?

## Decoration Day

There are graves on many hill-sides,  
White stones in shining rows,  
Where half a hundred winters  
Have spread their velvet snows.

To each the Springtime priestess  
Her Paschal flowers will bear;  
Each Summer's offered incense  
Will breathe a people's prayer.

Over seas in tropic jungles  
Of Cuba and Luzon,  
The tangled thickets cover  
What mothers called their own.

But snows shall never whiten  
The graves wide scattered there;  
Above them alien blossoms  
Their censers swing in air.

## España Dolorosa

There were tears in Andalusia,  
 There was wailing in Castile,  
 Leon was dark with sorrow,  
 In Aragon the peal  
 Of dirge funereal sounded ;  
 For now the flag of Spain,  
 From four hundred years of waving,  
 Would never rise again  
 Where the Pearl of the Antilles  
 Makes the isle of sweet delights,  
 On the Carribean waters  
 And Morro's battled heights.

For the Señor Castellanos  
 With no sceptre in his hand,  
 Gave the keys of power ancestral  
 To a hated victor land,  
 From the Palace of Havana,  
 Where crime had had its sway ;  
 Where the sins of generations  
 Bow the shoulders of to-day.

He looked not back in weakness  
 With a quiver for the past,  
 Nor upward to the turret  
 Where an alien flag was cast.  
 One cried, "*España viva!*"—  
 His heart shook with surprise ;  
 They saw one sudden tremor,  
 One unbrushed tear-drop rise ;  
 But he trod the marble stairway  
 With a martial step and bold,  
 Left the Palace of Havana  
 With its secrets all untold.

Ah, woe to thee, Granada!  
 Thy sins are at thy door;  
 The suffering of the ages  
 Returns to thy own shore.  
 Hist! thy children's "Miserere,"—  
 It is history's fate-wrung chimes,  
 And the blood-sweat of their foreheads  
 Is the dripping of thy crimes.

Ah, woe is thee, Alhama!  
 The blood-stain still is there;  
 Haste, haste to purge thy spirit  
 With penance and with prayer!

*Ai, España!* read the writing  
 Of the hand upon the wall;  
*Ai, España Dolorosa!*  
 Beware lest worse befall!



# “ Remembered ”

(*Havana, January 1, 1899.*)

Three Jackies went rowing far out in the bay,  
 Far out in the bay when the sun was high;  
 And those laddies—they did a deed that day  
 Which should make them beloved forever and aye.

For they placed our flag on the wave-washed wreck,  
 On the wave-washed wreck of the storied Maine;  
 Those Jackies, they climbed on the rocking deck  
 To flaunt that flag in the face of Spain.

They swung it high over davit and beams,  
 Over davit and beams for the love of her name,  
 And for love of the lads, who from sleep and dreams,  
 Went to dreamless sleep and unconscious fame.

And it waved beneath the Morro's height,  
 The Morro's height in Havana bay;  
 Not a Spaniard looked on the daring sight,  
 But thought of another winter's day;

Of a salient day not a year ago,  
 Not a year ago, but oh! for the change!  
 A kingdom lost and a nation born,  
 And Columbia's flag with an ocean range.

Then ho! for the lads who rowed out in the bay,  
 Rowed out in the bay with the stripes and stars;  
 Bless God for the thought in their hearts that day,  
 The brave true hearts of the jolly tars.

## Lexington Day, 1905\*

On the hundred and thirtieth Lexington day,  
 What can there remain for a daughter to say  
 Not already said for a score of times  
 In loftiest epic or lyrical rimes?  
 From the year seventy-five to the year eighty-three  
 We have sung every deed that helped make us free.  
 From the Puritan fathers who climbed Plymouth rocks  
 And the deified women who mended their socks,  
 To the squire's cocked hat and our grandmothers' stays,  
 We've told all we know of colonial days.

We've sung the wild ride of the young Paul Revere,  
 And the famous doings of Boston town;  
 For the Lexington dead we have dropped the tear;  
 We've clambered old Bunker Hill up and down;  
 In feathers and paint we have made our salt tea;  
 British Stamps have bestrewed the Atlantic shore;  
 Connecticut's charter we've hid in the tree,  
 Proclamations of freedom we've made by the score.  
 The Delaware crossing has not lacked its fame;  
 Valley Forge has become as a sacred name.  
 We've toasted the mothers who loaded the guns  
 And then wove the homespun for husbands and sons;  
 While of Betty's red petticoat cut into flags,  
 Even now every feminine one of us brags.  
 From Georgia to Maine of the battles we've gained,  
 To make modest mention, we've never refrained.  
 In short, Young Liberty's torches and caps  
 We've painted all over the country's new maps.

In the North and the South we have found our great men  
 And called them by name till the world should hear;

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\*Read before the Daughters of the American Revolution,  
 Sequoia Chapter.

We've sorted them out with discriminate pen  
From Washington down to the last volunteer,  
Not forgetting the heroes from over the sea,  
Whose banners bore eagles and French *fleur de lis*.

In our ancestors' homely life we have shared,  
And their foibles, too, we never have spared;  
Those Puritan whims we've delighted to tease,  
Aye, the penalties dire for a Sunday kiss;  
In a climate where everything else would freeze  
They thought to forbid this tropical bliss.  
With sly little thrusts we've made them our game,  
Note that wooer by proxy,— Miles Standish by name.  
The sins of our fathers, we've dragged to the light,  
But with filial devotion we've made them our own;  
We claim all their valor, but shirk not the sight  
Of pillories, burnings, and casting a stone.  
To their times we maintain that their errors were due,  
That their virtues were many, their faults were but few;  
Though we shrink from some facts of our country's  
rough youth,  
We propose to accept the historical truth.

Thus the good and the bad, in loving refrain  
We have sung to the world again and again,  
So what is there left for us now to rehearse  
But back to return by the way that we came,  
And in rhythmical prose or prosaical verse  
To vary our song though the theme be the same.

So from Yorktown back to the first of the days  
In the year seventy-five on April nineteen,  
When the people stood at the parting of ways,

And made their choice on the village green,  
Each year let us tell, like the sacred beads  
On a rosary great as the nation's name,  
The string of all those glittering deeds  
Well worthy to shine in a nation's fame.

Then here's to the day, the beginning of power,  
When the choice was made which gave us the dower  
Of our right to be free, by the eight lives sealed,  
By the hearts' hot blood on Lexington field.  
And here's to the six-score years and ten  
Of a nation's life which have passed since then;  
And here's to the future our children must brave,  
A problem as great as their fathers e'er knew,—  
This land, from prosperity's dangers to save;  
A debt to their vast inheritance due.  
So here's to our sires, our sons and our land,  
And here's to the power, which today we wield!  
May our fathers' God be the might of our hand,  
To our sons may He be their buckler and shield!

# The Glory of "The White Man's Burden"

*(With acknowledgments to Rudyard Kipling.)*

Aye, take "The White Man's Burden,"  
 And glory in the place  
 Mutations of strange peoples  
 Have thrust upon your race.  
 Reck not the price it costs you,  
 Though it be the "best ye breed,"  
 For Freedom is no phantasm,  
 Nor Liberty mere creed.

Strong in your might of master,  
 Strong in your brawn and pride,  
 Ye have the hand unflinching  
 "In patience to abide."  
 Cleave prison walls of darkness,  
 The former centuries' dower;  
 Let in the light of knowledge,  
 Though blows seem cruel power.

Despair not of the burden;  
 God's prophet felt the stress,  
 The murmurs of weak Israel  
 Still in the wilderness.  
 The promised land's true blessing  
 Those "fluttered folk" shall know,  
 When they behold their country  
 To nobler measure grow.

Accept "The White Man's Burden"  
 As duty's master-stroke;  
 The freeman's high ideal  
 "Your weariness shall cloak."

And future years shall show it  
To those who give you jeers,  
There is a verdict higher  
Than "The judgment of your peers."

Rich generations gave you  
The brain to think and plan;  
Grudge not the æons' blessings  
To this "child-devil" man.  
Hold fast "The White Man's Burden,"  
Though grudged the patriot's meed;  
For Freedom is no phantasm,  
Nor Liberty mere creed.

## Victoria Regina

The earth is full of tears. "The Queen is dead!"  
 Ye men, with crêpe upon your king's array,  
 Why make ye pageant over weary clay?  
 If ye have loved her, do the things she said.

She rests from strifes which broke her heart at last;  
 That heart—in love with peace—stunned by the roar  
 Which crashed upon the Imperial Island's shore;  
 She sees God's purpose now, with view more vast.

Sing hallelujah! Let the requiems cease!  
 As angels are, all young of form and fair,  
 So she, to-day; half wondering to be where  
 War blazons not, and life abides in peace.

Tear off the purple bands! Cast them away!  
 Hushed is love's parting sob — the years refrain.  
 She who was widowed, walks in white again;  
 Stain not with grief your Lady's nuptial day.

Ye passing bells, a Jubilate ring!  
 Sound, bugles, sound! Ye heralds, cry the hour!  
 Your Queen approaches now the Gracious Power,  
 Received into the Presence of The King.

## Labor, the Prophet

I am grim Labor, I who boldly stand  
 And over God's brown acres raise my hand.  
 Tyrants, ye heard the marching of my feet  
 Down through all time towards the oppressor's seat;  
 Ye tremble when before your face I raise  
 My hands all grimy with the forge's blaze.

My heralds shout upon the hills afar;  
 The firmament is shaken by the star  
 Of despots hurled from heaven into the sea.  
 No longer shall the winds of vengeance be  
 Held back by angels lest they hurt the earth;  
 The vials are full,—the hour is come to birth.

Masters, ye shudder at the nearing roar  
 Of angry waves that break upon your shore.  
 Each drop of that tumultuous sea is mine.  
 Behold, that sea reflects the face divine!  
 The people are the sea; athwart your path  
 They surge before God's tidal breath of wrath.

Across the raging of the storm I hear  
 The angels of the new life coming near;  
 Their trumpets sound above the tempest's roar:  
 "The toilers' bands are loosed forevermore."  
 And I, grim Labor, I shall wear the crown  
 Which kings and priests in terror will cast down



## The Spirit to the Spoilers

Spoilers of men, beware the dawning hour;  
 Heed ye the shapes that haunt your dreams of power.  
 The ghosts of centuries of wrong arise,  
 Their oriflammes of death before your eyes.  
 They point with ghastly fingers to your brows of Cain;  
 They cry, "Behold the earth-encumbering heaps of  
     slain."

And who are these? These dead that gape unto the skies?  
 Was here a battle where men stood with equal chance,—  
 Fell face to face, each man, his effort like a lance  
 Full set to do its honest worst unto his foe?  
 See ye the helmet and the sword receive the blow,  
 When each one strives alike to wreck or save a life?  
 See ye the weapons of an honorable strife?

Ye traffic princes, monarchs of red gold,  
 Beware the fate of kings of old,  
 For ye are one with them in sceptred power;  
 Forget not years have brought the toilers' hour.  
 The centuries accuse ye. But a new one springs  
 From God with promise on its wings!

Go haste to loose your brothers' bands before  
 The sounds of woe are heard within your door.  
 The angel of a waiting vengeance stands,  
 The golden censer in his lifted hands;  
 It smokes with fire from off the altar ta'en  
 Where ye have cast atoning gems in vain.  
 Haste, haste; he flings the censer to the floor  
 Of earth; he swears your time shall be no more.

# The Jongleur's Pranks

[From "*Francisca Reina and Other Poems*":  
*A. M. Robertson, San Francisco*  
1912]



## Yankee Doodle Up to Date\*

### I

Old Spain took Cuba by the hair  
And fearfully abused her;  
Said Uncle Sam, "Hold on, my Dons,  
Too long you have misused her."  
Yankee Doodle help her out,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"As friendly neighbors don't you think  
Free Cubans would be handy!"

When Dons blew up the *Yankee* Maine,  
Said Uncle Sam, "I swear it,  
My boys shall clear that *Spanish* main;  
Let him object who dare it."  
Yankee Doodle, seize their ships,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"Before our reckoning's done they'll find  
It is no school-boy pandy."

### II

Then arm in arm, our Uncle sailed  
With Dewey round Manila,  
Said he, "Now, Dewey, tell me where  
Is Spain's renowned flotilla?"  
Yankee Doodle, shell 'em out,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"You sunk 'em! sho! you must have found  
That harbor bottom handy."

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\*Written to be sung at entertainments given in the camps of volunteers around San Francisco. The boys in blue joined in the chorus, which accounts for the frequent refrain. Written piecemeal as the war progressed.

Said he, "Now, Dewey, keep your hold  
While I run home a minute,  
I'll send you loads of soldier boys,  
They're dyin' to be in it."

Yankee Doodle hurry up,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"For Dons and Aguinaldo's tribes  
My blue coats will come handy."

### III

Then Schley went hunting Spanish ships  
Around that ocean-lodgin';  
Said Uncle then, "I think you'll find  
Them occupied in dodgin'!"

Yankee Doodle hunt them out,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy;  
"They'll bob up here and bob up there,  
At bobbin' they are handy."

"We bottled up Cervera's fleet,"  
Said Uncle Sam to Hobson,  
"We'll find a higher place for you;  
You've done a clever job, Son."

Yankee Doodle sink the ship,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"For shutting up the harbor mouth  
The Merrimac proved handy."

Said Sampson to the Spanish Don,  
"Why don't you come and fight, Sir?"  
"Caramba," said that high Señor,  
"You've shut me up too tight, Sir."

Yankee Doodle fire away,  
 Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
 "We'll stop the guns and hold the fort,  
 No more brave words we'll bandy."

When shot were the Virginus' men,  
 'Twas Santiago did it;  
 Our boys have settled that old score  
 Just with the town that bid it.

Yankee Doodle pay your debts,  
 Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
 At Cáney and at San Juan ridge,  
 Rough Rider lads were handy.

#### IV

When Miles to Porto Rico went,  
 He climbed right up and took it;  
 The natives cried, "Dear Uncle Sam,  
 We're good, though we don't look it."

Yankee Doodle—what a brood!  
 Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
 Said Uncle Sam, "These new possess  
 Look just like 'lasses candy."

Then he from Porto Rican hills  
 Reviewed the situation;  
 He frowned and puzzled on the job  
 Of foreign occupation.

Yankee Doodle thought a while,  
 Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
 Said he, all pensive-like and bland,  
 And stroked his chin so handy,

"I hear that sweets are not held good  
For Uncle Sam's digestion;  
You're wrong, my boys, you'll see me thrive  
On that Hawaiian question."

Yankee Doodle hoist the flag,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"Now don't forget, your Uncle Sam  
Is fond of sugar candy."

"Now Dewey's finished up the job,  
Just what he undertook to;  
I think I'll put him at the head,  
He's pretty safe to hook to."

Yankee Doodle keep your grip,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"We won't go back on Dewey's prize;  
My Dewey is a dandy."

"Now Miles," said he, "Let's count 'em up;  
Here's Cuba'n Porto Rico;  
Hawaii in the other pond,  
Ladrones and Philippino."

Yankee Doodle keep your head,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy,  
"For stepping stones around the world,  
Those islands will come handy."

## Unc' Rastus to Marse Dewey

My Dear Mars Dewey: We sutney is please  
 Ter heah yo's aridin' de hom'ard seas,  
 But I laid off ter give yo' a wud in yer year,  
 Fer I's feared yo's gwine ter hev trouble right here.

'Twas jes' ter say dis — when yo' comes f'm de Souf,  
 Wharev'r yo' goes, don't open yer mouf,  
 Fer talkin' too much's ben de cuss an' de bane  
 O' de heroes what comes f'm de conq'r'in' o' Spain.

Dey tole secret t'ings Marse Kaiser denied,  
 With strong sinervations dat somebody lied;  
 Dey writ de long letters chuck full o' advice,  
 'Bout pussons in hammocks what et up de ice;  
 'Bout de quarters an' rations — dat "roun'-robin"  
                   game.

Den de dinners! O Lord! de battles o' Spain  
 Wan't a circumstance 't all when't come ter champagne;  
 De fumes was wus dan de smell o' de powder,  
 An' dat big twel'-inch, he don' talk no louder;  
 Dar's all kin' o' enemies hid in dat wine,  
 Dey's thicker dan guns in de firin' line.  
 So twar quoilin' an' fussin' in 'spisable ways,  
 All aimin' ter git de bulk o' de praise  
 Away f'm de turr, like dey's chickens dat foun'  
 Dar wou'n't be wurrun ernuff ter go roun'.  
 But spite o' it all we hed a gre't fight,  
 Dis country, she's leadin' ter lef' an' ter right;  
 Hit don't mek no diffence on' lan' er on sea,  
 Dat's a sho' 'nuff fac' when yo' b'longs ter de free;  
 De blue er de gray, de black er de white,  
 Dey's all kin-folks when Ole Glory's in sight.



If I's braash in persumin' ter speak out so bole,  
 It's 'case I's preacher an' toler'ble ole,  
 But we sees right smart' hin' de gent'men's chairs,  
 An' I jes 'lowed ter give yo' a hint ter bewares.

Dey'll mek percessions ter tote yo' roun'  
 Wid jubilee fixin's in ebery town,  
 Twel de row's es loud es a big camp meetin',  
 An' yo's natchelly 'bleeged ter git shet o' dat treatin'.  
 I tek noticement how yo's refused so far,  
 But sometime de home-comin's de tug-o'-de-war.

So don't tek no 'fense at de 'marks o' a friend  
 Wot's bragged on yer doin's f'm b'ginnin' ter end;  
 Yo's leadin' de row, yo's top o' de pot,  
 Yo's de onliest Admur'l we all's got,  
 An' we wants yo' ter stay at de head o' de winners.  
 Dat's huccome we say: "Fight shy o' dem dinners."  
 So dear Marse George, when yo' comes f'm de Souf,  
 Wharev'r yo' goes, don't open yer mouf,  
 Fer talkin' too much's ben de cuss an' de bane  
 O' de heroes what comes f'm de conq'rin' o' Spain.

## The Lady Reconciled

A lady and a tiger held  
 The birthright of an ancient feud;  
 Said he, "Pray let our wrath be quelled;  
 Fair dame, I fear I've been too rude.

"In future peace let us abide;  
 In pledge, let's forth our friends to greet;  
 Behold my shining, fulvous hide;  
 You'll find my back a pleasant seat."

When they came back from that rash ride,  
 The tiger wore his blandest smile.  
 Quoth he, "The lady rides inside;  
 'Tis thus our foes we reconcile."

If Science offer subtle schemes,  
 My faith, be not too soon beguiled;  
 Strange friendships may be tempting dreams;  
 Beware the lady reconciled.

## An Old Bachelor

O love is a jade of a wayward life;  
Sometimes she is gone at the whiff of a breath;  
Again she survives the most savage strife;  
Then often she scoffs in the face of death.

Sometimes she will fight at the drop of the hat;  
And then she will take your cuffs and blows  
As tame as a household tabby-cat,  
And likes to be led by a string in her nose.

Sometimes at the turn of hand, she is dead;  
Again at your tears she will laughingly flout.  
She's enough to drive a man out of his head;  
As for me, I will not have the creature about.

## A Spinster

Why have you come, O love, so near,  
Come but to pass me by?  
I sought you not, but found you here;  
Turn hence your trifling eye.

And in your vagrant wandering,  
Pray take some other path;  
Your talk — it is but maundering  
To rouse contempt and wrath.

Forever on some changing quest,  
With manners quite too gay,  
You are a fickle-minded guest.  
What's that? You've come to stay!

I don't believe a word you say;  
You said the same another day;  
I know your tricks: go way; go way;  
Whenever did you come to stay!

## My Soul and I

"Why don't I die and set you free?"  
 You saucy Soul, don't talk to me;  
 I am not half so old as you  
 Who saw the Pharoah beat the Jew.

You helped to build a pyramid;  
 Once in a Brahmin you were hid;  
 I know because you whispered me  
 How sweet the Hindoo maids could be.

For Babylon you sometimes weep  
 When I am tossing in my sleep;  
 If of Iran I make a verse,  
 You Zoroaster's lines rehearse.

Please don't forget that Chinese queue,  
 Though worn upon a throne 'tis true;  
 And next, as one of Canton's girls,  
 You made the tea for sampan churls.

You were a Turkish red-fez man,  
 You babble still of Hafed's khan;  
 I stood within blind Nydia's door;  
 Quoth you, "I've seen this house before."

When the old Britons placed the rood,  
 You with the ensigned Romans stood;  
 Though you became her queen by right,  
 I found you worn and weary quite.

You've been worse off; more civil speak,  
 Since you are such a varied freak.  
 I have not kept you near so long  
 As that black slave of Intermong.

You've tried the old world's worst and best,  
And thought it better to come west:  
Then you were very glad to find  
My infant form just to your mind.

The west has set the whole world-pace;  
You're still in time to join the race:  
A new sensation you will note,  
You soon will cast a woman's vote.

## A Grizzly in the Zoo

A shame to your kin, you good-natured bear,  
You show no regrets for your lost mountain lair.  
At play in the cage of your traveling zoo  
With the child who throws peanuts and apples at you!

The lion is wroth and the tiger is sly,  
But you eat, and twinkle your small black eye;  
From the top of your pole you look down as if man  
Were a brother who does what a brother can.

Do you never dream of Sierra's height  
Where your comrades hunt on the trail all night?  
Do you think such hide and muscles were meant  
To accept a pampered and slavish content?

Resistance that fails is better by far  
Than submission that fondles its cage and its bar.  
Break some fetter that binds; go tear up the earth,  
And show yourself worthy your savage birth.

The tiger's snarl and the lion's roar,  
That pierce unavailing their iron door,  
Less ignoble seem than the pitiful play  
Of the mighty paw that was meant to slay.

## A Bilious Day

One day I stalked, when Fate had balked  
And things were in a fix,  
With brows of gloom and thoughts of the tomb,  
On the shores of the river Styx.

“I’m dead,” said I; “No more I’ll try  
This hateful race to win;  
So Charon, dear, your boat bring here  
And kindly take me in.”

Contemptuously he said to me,  
With eyes askance the while,  
“A healthy ghost! Back to your post,  
A potion take for bile.”

The advice was good and it has stood  
The test of many a friend;  
And so for you when you are blue,  
The same I’ll recommend.



### **Triolet**

How dared he do it,  
To kiss those girls!  
But he will rue it;  
How dared he do it!  
Fate led him to it  
With smiles and curls;  
How dared he do it,  
To kiss those girls!

## Rondeau

O Jack, don't tease me every day,  
Go talk to Grace or Nell or May;  
Why, every time I tell you nay,  
It only makes you still more bold,  
As if you never had been told.

Dear heart! That little word I pray,—  
The word which never can grow old,  
Makes darkness bright and sorrow gay,  
For which a world is gladly sold,  
That little word, "I love."

That word is but an idle play,  
Or else another name for gold.  
The changes on that word you've rolled  
Till tired of being so cajoled;  
I've only one thing left to say,—  
That little word, "I love."

## Why?

What makes you ask Dan Cupid "Why?"  
And what did you get for a saucy reply  
But another arrow straight in the eye?  
So never ask the little god "Why?"  
For Love never knows the reason why.

## The Discarded Lover

O love is illusion and passion a snare;  
Of the promise they make you, beware, beware;  
They'll put up a job to break your heart;  
If you would have peace, with them you must part.

## **The Mess of It**

**The gods made a sorry old mess of it —  
The results we can't even guess of it —  
When the caldron they mixed for the young world's  
youth;  
The joy and the sorrow they cast indiscriminate,  
The false from the true they did not eliminate,  
But left man to add love as the test of the truth.**

## Progressive Love

Who says that a second is not as good?  
That a third should never be had?  
Let him try a fourth in an Alpine hood;  
And a fifth is not half bad.

Then here's to the latest; there'll be no last,  
Till Death cries "Ho, you're mine;"  
Love's eternal youth has no future or past,  
And its present is fire divine.

## The Call of Science

He Speaks:

"My girl," quoth he, "I feel each cell  
Of all my being towards you swell;  
These cells, you know, make up the tissue  
That vibrates with each latest issue.

"That vital energy which fills  
These cells, gives strange and wondrous thrills;  
This energy is said to be  
The substance of the graces three.

"This energy — life universal  
Condensed from nothing — has rehearsal  
In concrete lives, by heat electric,  
In waves invisible but hectic.

"That your vibrations harmonize  
With mine, I read in violet eyes;  
Color and light are nature's rhythm;  
Sphere-music old is scarcely with 'em.

"To think, your atoms charged have whirled  
Through space until the insensate world,  
Condensed, such treasure could receive!  
O Æons lost we can't retrieve!

"And only now I find you here;  
So young, so old, so ever dear;  
But still I always felt you coming,  
Through galaxies of stars a-humming."

She Speaks:

"Yes, dear, I've had my share of trouble,  
Working through world-dust full of rubble;  
'Gainst Mars and many moons a-bumping;  
At last upon this globe down-plumping.

"Through all I felt your vital force  
That drew me to its nearing source;  
I knew this involuting notion,  
Condensed by vibratory motion,

"Concentrates in the heart's fine cells  
Till they become emotion's wells.  
Then evolution's working power  
Develops lives of perfect flower.

"Our lives concentric thus shall fill  
Thought-pulses of the rhythmic will."  
He caught her in his arms' vibrations,  
All wrapped in tangled concentrations,

Like wires in spiral circles bound;  
Then, lines of least resistance found,  
In scarlet lips evolved the blisses  
Of true magno-electric kisses.

Rejoice, Dan Cupid! you're not in it,  
For science changes every minute;  
Nature unwound her spiral force;  
Currents reversed for their divorce.



## Psychology Five

*Adapted from the French of Baunis*

*"Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,  
Tears from the depths of some divine despair."*

*Alfred Tennyson.*

No more of despair you poets;  
We are farther than that today.  
Your tears do but flush the nerve-centers  
And wash the debris away.

When you're hurt in the heart as you call it,  
The vessels engorge with blood,  
And the nerves make a poison deposit  
Which is carried away by the flood

Of tears, which lovers and poets  
Have wrought into idyls of song;  
But these tears as peripheral action  
To Psychology Five belong.

And your tears no longer are "idle";  
They're a part of economy's wealth;  
"This stock-theme of lyrics," says science,  
"Only means sanitation and health."

## To College Girls

The college girls of a former day  
 Were earnest, sweet, demure and prim;  
 Calisthenics mild was their wildest fray,  
 While to mission strands they sang their way  
     With many a gospel hymn.

They wore no golf-skirts trimmed in red,  
 Nor did they twang the archer's bow;  
 Butler and logic were daily bread,  
 And their manners left us naught to dread;  
     Those girls of long ago.

But the modern girl! Alas for the hour  
 Which rigged her out in togs of state;  
 Which gave her gladiatorial power,  
 With equal suffrage as her dower;  
     This maid that's up to date!

The rostrum waits on her rosy lip  
 And the baton knows her practised hand;  
 While her arguments for man's comradeship  
 Make many a rash opponent trip;  
     This girl that holds the land!

She's taller than her brothers are,  
 And swings along with a noble gait;  
 She beats them over the vaulting bar;  
 In running and swimming, she leaves them afar;  
     This last "Try-out" of fate.

But the blood throbs warm in the lifted chest,  
Whatever her trend to the passing show;  
And as long as her gowns are the tailor's best,  
We know that a feminine heart's in the breast  
As surely as long ago.

But the world shall be glad for the new as the old,  
And hearth-stones as bright as they were of yore;  
For love flutters alike 'neath the kerchief's fold  
Or the sweater that's lettered in blue or gold;  
So a toast to the girls both new and old,  
Of today and the years before!

## A Pre-Adamite on Evolution

An aged king of gorillas sat  
 By the side of his wrinkled spouse;  
 Beneath a drooping banana tree  
 They renewed his birthday vows.

Quoth he, while a bunch of the fruit he plucked  
 To lay at her royal feet;  
 "To burden this day with forebodings of state,  
 I know that it is not meet;

"But my heart is sore for the future youth,  
 For our tribe and the very race.  
 A nation's weakness approaches fast  
 In the changes of form and face.

"Of seven full generations now  
 Patriarchal chief am I.  
 Not a son has the strength his father had;  
 They carry their heads too high.

"There goes our cousin Chimpanzee, the knave;  
 Ignominious shelter he makes,  
 To hide himself from the foe and the storm,  
 With a shelter of brushes and brakes.

"O degenerate sons of the future gorilla,  
 Can you hurl great rocks at the foe;  
 Can you lash them with trees? Can you frighten  
 the beasts  
 With a voice they have learned to know!"

And he beat his great breast with concussion  
 profound,  
 At his people's evolving disgrace;  
 But his queen held her peace till his wrath should  
 abate;  
 This dame knew her proper place.

"Does my lord forget," she ventured at last,  
 "When he came a-courting of me,  
 That I was more fair than my mother had been,—  
 He deemed it most good to see?

"And the fathers find nothing more worthy today  
 In the stories of ancient wives,  
 Than the deed of a modern gorilla maid  
 Whose tact saved a hundred lives.

"Has your highness a stride less majestic and firm  
 Than his sires who went on all four?  
 And we lack not the berries and betel nuts  
 Though we swing in the tree tops no more.

"And recall how our foes have been vanquished  
 By the traps our children designed;  
 Perhaps Nature may reach compensation at last  
 In a race of a subtler mind."

But he shook his grey head in a muttering storm:  
 "Such degeneration will bring  
 The noble race of Gorillas ere long  
 To a pale-faced naked thing.

"A creature so weak and enfeebled he'll be  
That in two generations he's old;  
His short arms may drop off altogether, I fear,  
Like the tails of which we are told.

"A weakling, short-armed and bald-headed  
forsooth!  
Afraid of the cold and the heat!  
When the mermaids at twilight are singing their  
psalms,  
He'll do for the shore's front seat.

"Ha! The females of that generation!" he roared  
Again, as if struck with new woes:  
"Will they stalk through the forest, unblushing  
and bold?  
Who'll marry such creatures as those!"

"Perhaps," said his listening target again,  
"Those fair Gorillitas might twine  
For their shivering bodies some cover of grace  
With the leaves of the clinging vine.

"And then there's the plantain, and fig leaf so  
broad,  
And the frond-bordered fern and the brake."  
Thus early did instincts Parisian appear  
The masculine scorn to awake.

"A female in plantains and fig leaves beswaddled,  
And tied round with twisted sticks!"  
Sneered her lord. "Have you, my dear Madam,  
I pray,  
Been trying such ladylike tricks?"

Thus the thought had dawned, and the earth rejoiced,  
That the ox and his brother were not alone,  
And only that man had a woe to be voiced  
Who did not possess a hoe of his own.

So hoe-men we are, both great and small,  
If we rule or serve or buy or sell,  
And the world demands but this thing of us all,  
Whenever we hoe be sure to hoe well.

*L'Envoi*

Then, comrades, your hoes! to your hoes and to work!  
For the fields are broad and brief are the years;  
And Nature has made no place for a shirk,  
Nor ripens life's harvest with penitent tears.











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*Truesdell*

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